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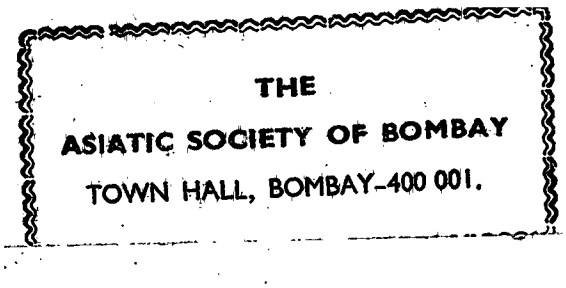


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# MAGNA BRITANNIA;

BEING

A CONCISE TOPOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT

OF

THE SEVERAL COUNTIES

OF

85182

# GREAT BRITAIN.

By the Rev. DANIEL LYSONS, A.M. F.R.S. F.A. and L.S.
RECTOR OF RODMARTON IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE;
And SAMUEL LYSONS, Esq. F.R.S. and F.A.S.
KEEPER OF HIS MAJESTY'S RECORDS IN THE TOWER OF LONDON.

## VOLUME THE FIRST,

CONTAINING

*BEDFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE, AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.*

*LONDON:*
PRINTED FOR T. CADELL AND W. DAVIES IN THE STRAND.
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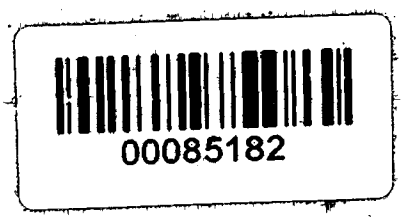
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TO

HIS MOST SACRED MAJESTY

*KING GEORGE THE THIRD,*

THIS ATTEMPT TO ILLUSTRATE

THE TOPOGRAPHY OF GREAT BRITAIN,

IS,

WITH HIS MAJESTY'S GRACIOUS PERMISSION,

HUMBLY DEDICATED,

BY

HIS MAJESTY'S

MOST DUTIFUL SUBJECTS,

AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS,

DANIEL LYSONS.
SAMUEL LYSONS.

# ADVERTISEMENT.

ALTHOUGH copious and well-executed Hiſtories of several Counties have been publiſhed, and although the *Britannia* of the learned Camden has been univerſally and juſtly regarded as an excellent work relating to the kingdom at large; yet as the former, beſides being for the moſt part very ſcarce, are moreover ſo bulky, as to form of themſelves a library of no inconſiderable extent; and as the *Britannia* gives only a general view of each county; it appeared to us that there was ſtill room for a work, which ſhould contain an account of each pariſh, in a compreſſed form, and arranged in an order convenient for reference.

Theſe conſiderations have given riſe to the following work, in which all matters that would readily admit of ſuch an arrangement are reduced under diſtinct heads; and the brief account of the deſcent of property, and other local particulars in each pariſh, are claſſed alphabetically; and we have endeavoured rather to make ourſelves clearly underſtood, than to diſplay a more ornamented ſtyle, which we conceived leſs adapted to a work of this kind. With reſpect to the plates, we have ſelected ſuch ſubjects as preſented the greateſt variety, and appeared to us to be the moſt intereſting; and we flatter ourſelves, that the manner in which they are executed, will be found adequate to convey an accurate idea of the objects intended to be repreſented *.

* A ſet of finiſhed engravings of views ſelected from the counties of Bedford, Berks, and Bucks, executed by the late Mr. William Byrne, from drawings by the beſt maſters, are publiſhed by Meſſrs. Cadell and Davies, at the ſame time with this volume.



The

The materials from which this work has been compiled, independently of thoſe derived from the beſt printed authorities, have been drawn from the following ſources; 1ſt, *Ancient Records and Manuſcripts* preſerved in the Britiſh Muſeum, and in various publick offices; particularly from that inexhauſtible treaſure of antient hiſtorical evidences, his Majeſty's Records in the Tower of London, which we have had the advantage of conſulting at all times, and the Records of the Augmentation office, to which we have had free acceſs through the liberality of John Caley eſq. which we have experienced on former occaſions; our thanks are alſo due to the Right Hon. George Roſe, to Robert Gray eſq. Richard Gray eſq. and Robert Harper eſq. for the permiſſion they have given us to conſult any of the records at the Chapter-houſe Weſtminſter, the Duchy of Cornwall office, the Auditors of the Land-Revenue office, and the Duchy of Lancaſter Office; and to Ralph Bigland eſq. Norroy King at Arms, Francis Townſend eſq. Windſor-Herald, and George Naylor eſq. York-Herald, for the readineſs with which they have furniſhed us with ſuch information as we ſtood in need of from the College of Arms: and, 2dly, *Perſonal Surveys* in each county, where we have acquired much valuable information, particularly from the Clergy and the gentlemen of the profeſſion of the Law, to whom our acknowledgments are due for their ready aſſiſtance. We are alſo much indebted to the Lords Biſhops of Lincoln and Sarum, for their kind aſſiſtance in their reſpective dioceſes, in which the three Counties contained in this volume are included; and to the Lord Biſhop of Cloyne for his valuable communications on the ſubject of the Roman Roads and Stations in each county.

It was our intention to have given ſome obſervations on the architecture of the middle ages in our General Introduction, but we conceived that they might be better introduced in the next volume, where we ſhall have an opportunity of referring to ſome excellent examples of different ſtyles, taken from Ely Cathedral. In the mean time, it may be proper to obſerve, that in the preſent volume we

have

have called the architecture of our ancient buildings, in which the circular arch is the moſt ſtriking characteriſtick, by the general name of *Saxon*, that being the appellation by which it is beſt underſtood, and not having hitherto diſcovered any difference ſufficiently ſtriking to conſtitute a diſtinct ſtyle: we have alſo in conformity to general uſage, called that ſtyle, of which the pointed arch is the leading feature, *Gothic*; as, however inappropriate the term may be, if we regard its etymology, it is in our opinion better to employ it, ſanctioned as it is by common uſe, than to adopt either of thoſe which have been propoſed in its ſtead, and which are not ſo generally underſtood. In our General Introduction we have not enlarged on the early Hiſtory of Britain, that ſubject having been fully treated of by preceding writers; and, being in our opinion, more immediately connected with an hiſtorical than a topographical work.

A longer ſpace of time has been occupied in collecting materials for this volume than we had expected: this however will not occaſion much ſurpriſe when it is conſidered that there are no hiſtories either of Bedfordſhire, Berkſhire, or Buckinghamſhire; and that though the preſent work is much compreſſed, the collections made for it were nearly the ſame as for ſo many County-hiſtories. Various alterations in the ſtate of property, and other particulars, have doubtleſs occurred ſince its commencement: ſuch as have come to our knowledge are noticed at the end of the volume; and for the reſt, as well as for ſuch errors, as are almoſt inſeparable from a work of this kind, whatever care has been taken to avoid them, we rely on the candour and indulgence of the public.

# LIST OF PLATES.

## BEDFORDSHIRE.


Page

I. Map of Bedfordſhire, - - - - - - - - - 1
II. Roman Urns found at Sandy, &c. - - - - - - 24
III. Plan of the Remains of the Priory Church at Dunſtaple, - - 28
IV. Inſide View of Part of the Nave of Dunſtaple Church, - - 28
V. Antient Fonts in Bedfordſhire, - - - - - - 31
VI. Baptiſtery at Luton, - - - - - - - - - 31
VII. Stone Stalls in Luton Church, - - - - - - - 32
VIII. Plan of Totternhoe Caſtle, - - - - - - - 35
IX. Weſt View of Felmerſham Church, - - - - - - 84
X. Part of the Wenlock Chapel, and Chancel of Luton Church, 111
XI. South-Eaſt View of Wimington Church, - - - - - 151
XII. Tomb of John Curteys and Albreda his Wife in Wimington Church, - - - - - - - - - - - 151


## BERKSHIRE.


XIII. Map of Berkſhire, - - - - - - - - - - 159
XIV. Architectural Ornaments in Avington Church, - - - 204
XV. Inſcriptions in Wolhampton and Sunning-Hill Churches; and the Hungerford Horn, - - - - - - - - 204
XVI. Architectural Ornaments in Padworth Church, - - - 205
XVII. Ancient Bas-relief, &c. in Charney Chapel, and Door-ways of Bucklebury, and Thatcham Churches, - - - - 205
XVIII. Welford Church, - - - - - - - - - - 205
XIX. Door of Tidmarſh Church, and leaden Font in Childrey Church 205
XX. Door-ways of Shillingford and Sparſholt Churches, - - - 205
XXI. Fonts in Avington, Shefford, and Sutton-Courtney Churches, 207
XXII. Stone Stalls in Faringdon and Welford Churches, - - - 207

Page

XXIII. Part of the Remains of Abingdon Abbey, - - - - 211
XXIV. Cumner-Place, - - - - - - - - - - 213
XXV. View of the White-horſe Hill, &c. - - - - - - 215
XXVI. Door of Appleton Manor-houſe, - - - - - - 234
XXVII. Plan of the Town of Reading, - - - - - - 328
XXVIII. Weſt View of Windſor Caſtle, - - - - - - 418
XXIX. A General Plan of Windſor Caſtle, - - - - - 420
XXX. Plan of the Ground Floor of the upper Ward in Windſor Caſtle, 420
XXXI. Seals of St. George's Chapel at Windſor, and of Luffield Priory, Bucks, - - - - - - - - - - - - 424

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

XXXII. Map of Buckinghamſhire, - - - - - - - 449
XXXIII. Plan of Stewkley Church, and Capitals of Pillars and Arches at the Weſt-end of, - - - - - - - 486
XXXIV. Inſide View of the Chancel of Stewkley Church, - - - 486
XXXV. Door-way of Dinton Church, - - - - - - - 486
XXXVI. Door of Water-Stratford-Church, - - - - - - 486
XXXVII. Antient ſtained Glaſs in Cheſham-Bois and Chetwode Churches, 488
XXXVIII. Fonts in Ayleſbury and Maids-Morton Churches, - - 489
XXXIX. Stone Stalls in Maids-Morton Church, - - - - - 490
XL. Tomb of Elizabeth Lady Clinton, in Haverſham Church, 491
XLI. Ruins of the Hall of Aſheridge-Houſe, - - - - 492
XLII. Inſide View of the Chancel of Chetwode Church, - - 540
XLIII. North-Eaſt View of Hilleſdon Church, - - - - 579
XLIV. South-Eaſt View of Stewkley Church, - - - - - 633

GENERAL

# GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

CAMDEN, ſpeaking of the Etymology of the word *Britain*, with great juſtice, ſeems to doubt the poſſibility of coming at the truth, "buried deep as it is in the obſcurity of ages." It is certain that no ſucceeding writer has given any ſatisfactory explanation of the word; but it is the general opinion of the learned, that it is of Celtic origin.

The early hiſtory of Britain is involved in ſo much fabulous obſcurity, that there is nothing on which we can place any reliance as an hiſtorical fact, till the arrival of the Romans; who found this iſland divided into 34 different tribes, ſeventeen of which occupying that part of it now called Scotland, according to Ptolemy were the *Calodonii*, *Cantæ*, *Careni*, *Carnonacæ*, *Cerones*, *Cornavii*, *Creones*, *Damnii*, *Epidii*, *Logi*, *Meriæ*, *Novantes*, *Selgovæ*, *Texali*, *Vacomagi*, *Veniconies*, and the *Gadeni*, whoſe territories ſeem to have extended into Northumberland.

According to Camden[a], the Engliſh counties were thus occupied by the remaining ſtates:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Attrebatii*, | | Berkſhire. |
| *Belgæ*, | - - | Somerſetſhire.<br>Wiltſhire.<br>Hampſhire. |
| *Brigantes*, | - - | Yorkſhire[b].<br>Lancaſhire.<br>Durham.<br>Weſtmorland.<br>Cumberland. |
| *Cantii*, | - - | Kent. |

[a] Where later writers of good authority have differed in opinion from Camden, it will be noticed in the introduction to each county.

[b] A people called the *Parifi* are placed by Ptolemy about the Eaſt Riding of Yorkſhire.



*Cattieuchlani*,

| | |
|---|---|
| *Catieuchlani*, | Buckinghamſhire. Bedfordſhire. Hertfordſhire. |
| *Coritani*, | Lincolnſhire. Leiceſterſhire. Rutlandſhire. Derbyſhire. Nottinghamſhire. Northamptonſhire. |
| *Cornavii*, | Warwickſhire. Worceſterſhire. Staffordſhire. Shropſhire. Cheſhire. |
| *Dimetæ*, | Carmarthenſhire. Pembrokeſhire. Cardiganſhire. |
| *Dobuni*, | Glouceſterſhire. Oxfordſhire. |
| *Damnonii*, | Devonſhire. Cornwall. |
| *Durotriges*, | Dorſetſhire. |
| *Iceni*, | Norfolk. Suffolk. Cambridgeſhire. Huntingdonſhire. |
| *Ordevices*, | Montgomeryſhire. Merionethſhire. Carnarvonſhire. Flintſhire. Denbighſhire. |
| *Ottadini*[c], | Northumberland. |
| *Regni*, | Suſſex. Surrey. |
| *Silures*, | Herefordſhire. Radnorſhire. Brecknockſhire. Monmouthſhire. Glamorganſhire. |
| *Trinobantes*, | Eſſex. Middleſex. |

[c] The *Ottadini* and the *Gadeni* are by ſome ſuppoſed to have been the ſame people.

The

The firſt diviſion of Britain, or more properly of England and Wales, made by the Romans, was into *Britannia inferior*, and *Britannia ſuperior*: a ſtill more ancient diviſion mentioned by Ptolemy into *Britannia magna* and *parva*, is underſtood by Camden to refer to Great-Britain and Ireland, and by ſome other writers to England and Scotland. *Britannia inferior* is ſuppoſed to have compriſed the northern part of England, and *Britannia Superior*, the more ſouthern part and Wales. This diviſion is ſuppoſed by Camden to have been made by Severus, who according to Herodian, divided the government of the province of Britain into two *præfecturæ*: Scotland they had long before this time abandoned as unprofitable.

The Romans afterwards divided the province of Britain into three parts, *Maxima Cæſarienſis*, *Britannia Prima*, and *Britannia Secunda*: Camden ſuppoſes theſe to correſpond with the three archbiſhopries which anciently exiſted in Britain, London, (afterwards removed to Canterbury,) York, and Caerleon which included Wales; his reaſon is, that Pope Lucius inſinuates that the Chriſtians eſtabliſhed their eccleſiaſtical juriſdictions in imitation of thoſe of the Roman magiſtrates, and that the archbiſhops fixed their ſees in the cities where the Roman Governors had their reſidence; the province of London, as being nearer Rome, he ſuppoſes to have been *Britannia Prima*, it having been cuſtomary to give the name of *Prima* to that part of their foreign colonies which was ſo ſituated; Wales, which was ſubject to the Biſhop of Caerleon, *Britannia Secunda*; and the province of York, *Maxima Cæſarienſis*. In the next age they divided Britain into five parts, retaining the three former names, and adding thoſe of *Valentia*, and *Flavia Cæſarienſis*. *Valentia* was doubtleſs the northern part of *Maxima Cæſarienſis*, recovered by Theodoſius from the Picts and Scots, and called in honor of his maſter the Emperor Valens, *Valentia*: from this time it was conſidered as a ſeparate diſtrict, and had a governor of its own. *Flavia Cæſarienſis* is ſuppoſed by Camden, following the opinion of Giraldus Cambrenſis, to have been in the centre of England, probably taken partly from *Britannia Prima*, and partly from the ſouthern part of *Maxima Cæſarienſis*; and called *Flavia*, as Camden with great probability ſuppoſes, in honour of *Flavius Theodoſius*, the Emperor, ſon of the above-mentioned *Theodoſius*. When the Romans had abandoned Britain, and the Saxons invited to aſſiſt the haraſſed inhabitants againſt the Scots and Picts, had turned their arms againſt thoſe whom they came to aid, and after many bloody conflicts had made themſelves maſters of their country, they divided the whole Roman province, excepting Wales where the remains of the Britons had retired, into ſeven kingdoms, known by the name of the Saxon Heptarchy, viz. Kent, Suſſex, Eaſt-Anglia, Weſſex, Northumberland, Eſſex, and Mercia.

Under the Saxon heptarchy, England was not divided into counties properly

ſo

ſo called, but into certain diſtricts, thirty-four in number, containing each a definite number of hides. They are enumerated by Camden from an ancient MS. but their names are in general ſo different from thoſe of any of our modern counties, or diſtricts, that it would be very difficult, and perhaps impoſſible, to aſcertain their poſitions. The ſituation of a few, as *Ciltern-ſetna*, *Cant-Warena*, and *Suth-Sexena*, are obvious. Although England was not divided into counties, before the whole kingdom was united into one monarchy under Alfred; yet it is ſufficiently aſcertained, from the teſtimony of ancient hiſtorians, that the preſent counties were divided among the ſeven kingdoms of the Heptarchy, according to the following table.

The Kingdom of Kent comprehended the county of Kent only; Suſſex, or the Kingdom of the South Saxons, Suſſex and Surrey;

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Kingdom of the East-Angles, | *The Counties of* | Norfolk.<br>Suffolk.<br>Cambridge, with the Iſle of Ely. |
| Weſſex, or the Kingdom of the Weſt Saxons. | | Cornwall.<br>Devon.<br>Dorſet.<br>Somerſet.<br>Wilts.<br>Hants.<br>Berks. |
| The Kingdom of Northumberland, | | Lancaſter.<br>York.<br>Durham.<br>Cumberland.<br>Weſtmorland.<br>Northumberland, and the more ſouthern parts of Scotland. |
| Eſſex, or the Kingdom of the Eaſt Saxons, | | Eſſex.<br>Middleſex, and Part of Hertford. |
| The Kingdom of Mercia, | | Glouceſter.<br>Hereford.<br>Warwick.<br>Worceſter.<br>Leiceſter.<br>Rutland.<br>Northampton.<br>Lincoln.<br>Huntingdon.<br>Bedford. |

Buckingham.

Buckingham.
Oxford.
Stafford.
Salop.
Derby.
Nottingham.
Chester and Part of Hertford.

The counties are also called shires, from the Saxon word *Scyre*, signifying to divide. At the first distribution of them there were only 32, as may be collected from a passage in William of Malmsbury [d]. "At this time, says Camden, the counties were divided according to the diversity of laws. For the laws of England were of three sorts, those of the West Saxons, called *West Saxonlage*, of the Danes called *Danelage*, and of the Mercians, called *Merchenlage*: The West Saxon laws obtained in nine counties, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Berks, Hants, Wilts, Somerset, Dorset, and Devon: those of the Danes in fifteen; York, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Lincoln, Northampton, Bedford, Bucks, Herts, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge and Huntingdon. The other counties, Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, Warwick, Oxford, Chester, Salop and Stafford, were governed by the Mercian laws." This opinion of a diversity of laws, obtaining in the three districts, was generally received among antiquaries, till Bishop Nicholson's time; who has ably refuted it in his preface to Wilkins's edition of the Saxon laws, and shewn that the word *lage*, mistaken by the Norman writers for their *ley* or *loi*, in reality signifies *ditio*, or jurisdiction; and that there was not such a diversity of laws, although there were so many governments. In the survey of Domesday 34 counties are described: Northumberland, Westmorland, and Cumberland, then belonged to the Scots; Durham and Lancashire are omitted: these make up the number 39: Monmouth, which was made an English county in the reign of Charles II. completes the present number of 40. Camden says that the Welch counties were six in number in the reign of Edward I. and that the others were formed by act of parliament in the reign of Henry VIII.: but it appears by the act itself, that there had been eight shires of ancient and long time, viz. Glamorgan, Carmarthen, Pembroke, Cardigan, Flint, Carnarvon, Anglesey, and Merioneth; Monmouth, (afterwards made, as before-mentioned, an English county) Radnor, Brecknock, Montgomery, and Denbigh, were then added.

[d] At this time (Anno 1016) the Danes over-run 16 out of the 32 counties in England.

King Alfred, for the more convenient adminiſtration of juſtice, divided each county into hundreds and tithings; the hundreds in the north of England being called Wapentakes, and in Suſſex, Rapes. The ridings of Yorkſhire compriſe many hundreds; the Leathes in Kent are ſmaller, and compriſe three or four hundreds. A hundred has been defined as conſiſting of ten tithings, and every tithing of ten houſeholds; but if ſo, the number of hundreds muſt have been in ancient times much greater, or the population very ſmall.

In the time of King Alfred, a deputy or lieutenant was appointed, as guardian of each county; King Henry III. in the latter part of his reign, reſtored this officer by the name of Captain, to keep the peace with the aſſiſtance of the ſheriff: it is probable that he was alſo called *Comes*. The office became hereditary in many noble families, who had by Royal Grant, as a kind of ſalary attached to it, the *third penny* of the county over which they preſided. *Comes* is by ſome ſuppoſed to be derived from *Comitatus*, by others *Comitatus* from *Comes*: this is the origin of the third rank among our nobility, that of earls. It is certain that the ſheriff, who was the deputy of this principal officer, was invariably ſtyled *Vice-comes*, and was one of the principal gentry in each county; and it was not till the reign of Henry VI. that the title of *Vice-comes* or Viſcount, was made a title of honour unconnected with office: it now forms the fourth in rank of the nobility, being next to that of earl.

It may not be amiſs to ſpeak here very briefly of the other degrees. The higheſt rank, that of duke, was not granted to any ſubject in England before the reign of King Edward III. Robert Vere, Duke of Ireland, being the firſt perſon, unconnected with the blood royal, who had that honour conferred on him: he was at the ſame time (1385) created Marquis of Dublin, being the firſt inſtance of the introduction of that title, now the ſecond in rank in our peerage.

The firſt mention of the title of baron amongſt us, is as early as the reign of Canute, when the word ſeems to have been uſed ſynonymouſly with Thane; though it ſeems the general opinion of antiquaries, that the Thane and Vavaſor, orders, long ſince extinct, were of a rank inferior to barons: it is certain that under the firſt Norman kings, barons were ſuch perſons as were poſſeſſed of an entire barony, that is thirteen knights-fees and one third, being lands of the yearly value of 400 marks. Theſe claimed a right of being ſummoned to parliament. K. Henry III. firſt made a ſelection of the barons, who in his time were become very numerous, and admitted thoſe only to parliament whom he ſummoned to it by writ. K. Richard II. firſt made it a title of honour, and created barons by patent:

the

the firſt ſo created was John Lord Beauchamp of Holt, made Baron Kiderminſter in 1387.

The diviſion of diſtricts into pariſhes was an eccleſiaſtical inſtitution, which aroſe from the Pope's aſſigning particular churches to each prieſt; and firſt took place in England about the year 636, by order of Honorius, Archbiſhop of Canterbury.

The whole of England, as far as relates to its eccleſiaſtical juriſdiction, is divided into two provinces, and 25 dioceſes. The provinces or archbiſhopries are Canterbury and York. The Archbiſhop of Canterbury is primate and metropolitan of all England; he has a dioceſe of his own, conſiſting of part of Kent, and ſeveral pariſhes in other counties, which are in his immediate juriſdiction: the biſhops ſubject to him are 21 in number;

| | |
|---|---|
| Rocheſter, *whoſe dioceſe compriſes* | Part of Kent. |
| London, - - - - - | Eſſex, Middleſex, and Part of Hertfordſhire. |
| Chicheſter, - - - - | Suſſex. |
| Wincheſter, - - - | Hampſhire (including the Iſle of Wight,) Surrey, and the Iſlands of Guernſey and Jerſey. |
| Saliſbury, - - - - | Wiltſhire, and Berkſhire. |
| Exeter, - - - - - | Devonſhire, and Cornwall. |
| Bath and Wells, - - - | Somerſetſhire. |
| Worceſter, - - - | Worceſterſhire, and Part of Warwickſhire. |
| Hereford, - - - - | Herefordſhire, and Part of Shropſhire. |
| Litchfield and Coventry, - - | Staffordſhire, Derbyſhire, Part of Warwickſhire, and Part of Shropſhire. |
| Lincoln, - - - - | Lincolnſhire, Leiceſterſhire, Huntingdonſhire, Bedfordſhire, Buckinghamſhire, and Part of Hertfordſhire. |
| Ely, - - - - - - | Cambridgeſhire (including the Iſle of Ely.) |
| Norwich, - - - - | Norfolk, and Suffolk. |
| Oxford, - - - - | Oxfordſhire. |
| Peterborough, - - - | Northamptonſhire, and Rutlandſhire. |
| Glouceſter, - - - - | Glouceſterſhire (excepting a few Pariſhes.) |
| Briſtol, - - - - | The city of Briſtol, Dorſetſhire, and a few Pariſhes in Glouceſterſhire. |
| St. Davids - - - - | Pembrokeſhire, Carmarthenſhire, Brecknockſhire, the greater Part of Radnorſhire, and ſome Pariſhes in Monmouthſhire, Herefordſhire, Montgomeryſhire, and Glamorganſhire. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Llandaff, *whoſe dioceſe compriſes* | The greater Part of Monmouthſhire and Glamorganſhire. |
| Bangor, - - - - | Carnarvonſhire (excepting three Pariſhes,) Angleſea, and Part of Denbighſhire, Merionethſhire, and Montgomeryſhire. |
| St. Aſaph, - - - - | Flintſhire, Part of Denbighſhire, Montgomeryſhire, and Merionethſhire, and a ſmall Part of Shropſhire. |

The ſees continue as they were ſome time before the conqueſt; excepting that Briſtol, Glouceſter, and Oxford, were created Biſhoprics by King Henry VIII. before whoſe time Dorſetſhire was in the dioceſe of Saliſbury, Glouceſterſhire in the dioceſe of Worceſter, and Oxfordſhire in the dioceſe of Lincoln.

The archbiſhop of York has within his immediate juriſdiction the counties of York and Nottingham; and has ſubject to him three biſhoprics, viz.

| | |
|---|---|
| Carliſle, *whoſe dioceſe compriſes* | The greater part of Weſtmorland and Cumberland. |
| Cheſter, - - - - | Cheſhire, Lancaſhire, and part of Weſtmorland, Cumberland, and Yorkſhire. |
| Durham, - - - - | Durham, and Northumberland. |

Cheſter was created a biſhopric by K. Henry VIII. and was anciently part of the dioceſe of Litchfield. Each biſhopric, unleſs of very ſmall juriſdiction, is divided into two or more archdeaconries, and into ſeveral ſmaller diſtricts called deaneries, each containing an indefinite number of pariſhes. The total number of pariſh churches in England, according to the liſt made out by Cardinal Wolſey in 1520, was 9407; the Catalogue preſented to King James, as mentioned by Camden, makes them only 9284; Camden accounts for the difference by the ſuppoſition that ſome churches had in the interval been deſtroyed; that parochial chapels were omitted in one liſt, and in the other, thoſe which were only chapels, accounted pariſh churches. The number of pariſhes ſubjoined by Camden to each county, correſpond with the number of pariſh churches in Wolſey's liſt. It will not be found exactly to agree with the preſent number of pariſhes, which will be aſcertained with as much accuracy as poſſible in each county, in the courſe of the following work. Some ſmall pariſhes have long ſince Camden's time been united, and the churches in ſome inſtances taken down; whilſt other large ones have been divided, and new pariſhes created by act of parliament. It is ſometimes difficult to determine which chapelries are, and which are not, parochial.

The extent of South Britain has been ſo differently ſtated that ſome writers on that ſubject have ſuppoſed its area to contain no more than twenty-eight millions of acres, whilſt others have eſtimated it at forty-ſeven millions; no one appears to have written ſo ſatisfactorily on this head as the preſent Profeſſor of Modern Hiſtory at Oxford[a], who ſays that the true number is between thirty-eight and thirty-nine millions; the Profeſſor obſerves, that "Our preſent maps differ indeed conſiderably from one another, according as they have been more or leſs corrected, by adopting modern aſtronomical obſervations; but none of the older maps, which are of any credit, give more than forty millions, and ſome of the *modern* ones ſcarcely give thirty-eight millions of acres. It is true that the exact number cannot be aſcertained with mathematical preciſion, till the preſent very excellent trigonometrical ſurvey has been completed; but ſince that ſurvey has already corrected more than one-third of the whole outline, and verified the breadth of the ſouthern part of England, ſince in the latitude, and conſequently in the diſtance from north to ſouth, there cannot be any error worth noticing; and ſince many other points, which are material to this inquiry, have already been ſatisfactorily determined by good aſtronomical obſervations, the poſſibility of error is, in fact, reduced within very narrow limits, and there is no chance that the number of ſtatute acres in South Britain can greatly exceed thirty-eight millions five hundred thouſand. Scotland, with its adjacent iſlands, contains about twenty-one millions."

[a] In his Obſervations on the Income-Tax, publiſhed in 1800.

BEDFORDSHIRE

# BEDFORDSHIRE.

## INTRODUCTION.

### *Ancient Inhabitants and Government.*

THIS County, when the Romans invaded Britain, was inhabited by a people called the *Caſſii*, or *Catieuchlani*. During the government of the Romans, it formed part of *Britannia Superior*, afterwards of *Britannia Prima*; and upon the laſt Roman diviſion of the iſland, it was included in the diſtrict of *Flavia*. After the eſtabliſhment of the Saxon Heptarchy, it became part of the kingdom of Mercia. When two kingdoms of the Heptarchy were aboliſhed, as related by Bromton, the kings of Mercia retained one moiety of Bedfordſhire; the kings of Eſſex became poſſeſſed of the other[a]. After the whole of England was united into one monarchy, this county was compriſed within the diſtrict which was called *Denelege*, or the Daniſh Juriſdiction.

### *Hiſtorical Events.*

THE firſt hiſtorical event which we find relating to this county, is the battle fought at Bedford between Cuthà, or Cuthwulf, brother of Ceaulin, king of the Weſt-Saxons, and the Britiſh army, in the year 571, or as ſome ſay 580. The Saxons proved ſucceſsful; and the conſequence of the defeat to the Britons was the loſs of four of their principal towns, Lygeanburgh, Egleſburgh, Bennington, and Egeneſham[b]. The firſt has, by ſome antiquaries, been ſuppoſed to be Loughborough in Leiceſterſhire; by others, with more probability, Leighton in Bedfordſhire; that town and Egleſburgh (which all agree to have been Ayleſbury) lying in a direct line under the Chiltern to Benſington and Enſham. One of the moſt ancient Britiſh roads is ſuppoſed to have paſſed under the Chiltern. No particular mention of this county appears in hiſtory after this period till the reign of Edward the Elder (ſon to king Alfred) when it became frequently the ſcene of ac-

[a] Decem Scrip. i. 800, 801. [b] Sax. Chron. p. 22.

tion in the wars between that victorious monarch and the Danes. About the year 907, according to Bromton, or as the Saxon Chronicle, with greater appearance of accuracy, informs us, in 919 [c], this monarch came to Bedford, ſtaid there four weeks, received the ſubmiſſion of all the neighbouring country, and built a fortreſs on the South ſide of the river. In 921, the Danes, coming from Huntingdonſhire into Bedfordſhire, fortified Temesford (now Tempsford) and ſtationed themſelves there. In an excurſion from thence they attacked Bedford, but the men of that town made a ſally, and put them to flight with great ſlaughter [d]. The ſame ſummer King Edward, collecting a great force, beſieged the Danes at Tempsford, took that city, as it is called in the Saxon Chronicle, deſtroyed their fortreſs, and put their king to death, together with a great number of his nobles [e]. In 1009, the Danes made an excurſion through a part of this county by the Chiltern to Oxford [f]. In 1010, the Daniſh army burnt Bedford and Tempsford [g]. The next year this county ſubmitted to the dominion of King Ethelred [h].

Bedford caſtle, built by the Beauchamps on the ſite, it is probable, of King Edward's fortreſs, was eſteemed a garriſon of ſuch importance, that, as Camden obſerves, there was ſcarcely a ſtorm of civil fury, whilſt it ſtood, that did not burſt on it. It was held by the Beauchamps againſt Stephen, and taken by him in 1138 [i]. The ſame family held this caſtle againſt King John, who ſent his favourite, Fulk de Brent, to beſiege it; and when he had taken it, gave it to him as a reward for his good ſervices [k]. This ſame Fulk having committed a moſt violent outrage on Henry Braybroke, one of the King's juſtices itinerant, whom he impriſoned in open defiance of the law in his caſtle at Bedford, King Henry III. went in perſon with his nobles to beſiege it. After a ſiege of two months, it was taken by ſtorm, and the King cauſed it to be diſmantled [l]. It is probable that all the baronial caſtles in this county, of any conſequence, excepting Bedford, had been before demoliſhed when King John in his march to the northward burnt and deſtroyed, as Matthew Paris informs us [m], all the caſtles which lay in his route; and this perhaps is the reaſon why we read of no remarkable occurrences in this county during the wars between the houſes of York and Lancaſter.

During the war between Charles the Firſt and his Parliament, Bedfordſhire was one of the firſt counties that aſſociated againſt the King, being within that diſtrict known by the name of the Eaſtern aſſociates [n]. A ſpecial licence for this aſſociation paſſed the Houſe Nov. 30th, 1642. The Earl of Mancheſter was commander in chief of the Eaſtern aſſociates: Cromwell commanded the horſe under him [o]. Lord Clarendon obſerves, that Bedfordſhire was one of the counties

[c] Sax. Chron. p. 106. [d] Ibid. p. 107. [e] Ibid. p. 108. [f] Ibid. p. 139. [g] Ibid. p. 140.
[h] Ibid. [i] Hiſt. Angl. Scrip. ii. p. 153. [k] Dugdale's Baronage. [l] Chron. Dunſt.
[m] P. 230. [n] Heath's Chronicle, p. 59. [o] Lord Clarendon's Hiſtory of the Rebellion.

in which the King had not any viſible party, nor one fixed quarter. The ſame author informs us, that in October 1643, the King ſent Prince Rupert with a ſtrong party of horſe and foot into Bedfordſhire: that he took the town of Bedford, which was occupied as a ſtrong quarter by the enemy, and that this expedition was principally deſigned to countenance Sir Lewis Dyve, whilſt he fortified Newport-Pagnell, at which place he hoped to fix a garriſon. Heath ſays, that it was Sir Lewis Dyve himſelf who had the command of this expedition; and that, being ſent into Bedfordſhire with 2000 or 3000 horſe, he came firſt to Ampthill, then to Bedford, which town he entered, and took Sir John Norris, and other parliamentary officers, priſoners. From thence he went to Sir Samuel Luke's houſe [p], and ſerved *that* as Sir Lewis Dyve himſelf was ſerved in the ſame county [q] by the ſequeſtrators. Soon after this, Col. Montague, with ſome of the parliamentary troops, entered Bedford by a feint, under a pretence of their being the Royal army, under Sir Lewis Dyve, and took away ſome money and horſes intended for the King's uſe [r]. None of the ſubſequent tranſactions of the war appear to have been in any way connected with this county.

### *Ancient and modern Diviſion of* BEDFORDSHIRE.

When the Norman ſurvey was taken, this county was divided into nine hundreds and three half hundreds. The town of Bedford was aſſeſſed as half a hundred. Leighton-Buſard, Luton, Houghton-Regis, and the adjoining manor of Sewell, ſeem to have been aſſeſſed ſeparately. The hundreds were as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manſheve, | now Manſhead; | Bereford, | now Barford; |
| Flitham, | — Flit; | Bichelefwade, | — Biggleſwade; |
| Wilga, | — Willey; | Cliſton, or Clifton, | — Clifton; |
| Wicheſtanſtou, | — Wixamtree; | Radburneſtoc, or Radborgeſtoch, | — Redbornſtoke. |
| Stodene, | — Stodden; | | |

The half hundred of Bochelai, or Buchelai, contained the manors of Biddenham, Bletſoe, Bromham, Stagſden, and Steventon, now included in the hundred of Willey, and Renhold and Goldington, now in the hundred of Barford.

The half hundred of Stanburge, or Stanbridge, compriſed the manors of Eaton-Bray, Totternhoe, Tilſworth, Studham, and the Bedfordſhire part of Edleſborough, which are all now in the hundred of Manſhead.

The half hundred of Weneſlai contained only the three manors of Hatley, Potton, and Sandy, now in the Hundred of Biggleſwade.

The following is a liſt of the manors noticed in the ſurvey of Domeſday, with their modern names, as far as they could be aſcertained.

[p] Either Hawnes, or Woodend, near Bedford. [q] At Bromham, then the ſeat of the Dyve's.
[r] Pamphlet in the Britiſh Muſeum.

| | |
|---|---|
| Aieworde, or Aiſſeworde | Eyworth |
| Acheleia | Oakley |
| Alriceſcia | Arleſey |
| Ammetelle | Ampthill |
| Aſpleia | Aſpley |
| Badleſdone | Battleſden |
| Bedeford | Bedford |
| Bereford | Barford |
| Berton | Barton |
| Bichelſwade | Biggleſwade |
| Bideham | Biddenham |
| Biſſoppeſcote | Biſcot, in Luton |
| Biſtone | Beeſton, in Sandy |
| Blecheſhou | Bletſoe |
| Blunham | Blunham |
| Boleheſtre, or Bulcheſtre | Bolnhurſt |
| Bruneham | Bromham |
| Cadendone | Caddington |
| Caiſſot, or Chaiſot | Keyſoe |
| Cameſtone, or Chambelton | Campton |
| Carlentone | Cardington |
| Celgrave | Chalgrave |
| Chainhall | Renhold |
| Chainhou | Cainhoe, in Clophill |
| Chalveſtorne | Chalveſton, in Roxton |
| Chenotinga | Knotting |
| Chernetone | |
| Chicheſana | Chickſand |
| Cliſtone | Clifton |
| Clopeham | Clapham |
| Clopelle | Clophill |
| Cochepol, or Chochepol | Cople |
| Colmeworde | Colmworth |
| Cranfelle | Cranfield |
| Cravenheſt | Gravenhurſt, (upper and lower) |
| Crawelai | Huſborn-Crawley |
| Cudeſſane | |
| Daintone, or Domtone | Dunton |
| Dena | Dean |
| Dodingtone | Toddington |
| Echam | Higham-Gobion |
| Edworde | Edworth |
| Eitone | Eaton-Bray, and Eaton-Socon |
| Elneſtou | Elſtow |
| Elvendone | |
| Eſeltone and Eſſelton | Shelton |
| Eſtodham | Studham |
| Eſtone | |
| Eſtwiche | Aſtwick |
| Eureſhot | Everſholt |
| Fernadis | Farndiſh |
| Falmerſham, or Flamerſham | Felmerſham |
| Flicteham | Flitton |
| Flictewicke | Flitwick |
| Giveldone | Yieldon |
| Gledlai | Gledley |
| Goldentone | Goldington |
| Hagenes | Hawnes, or Haynes |
| Hanefelde | |
| Haneſlau | Henlow |
| Harewelle | Harold |
| Hatlei | Cockayne-Hatley |
| Henewich | Hinwick, in Puddington |
| Herghetone | Harrowden, in Cardington |
| Herlingdon | Harlington |
| Hockleia | Hockliffe |
| Holewelle | Holwell |
| Holme | Holme, in Biggleſwade |
| Houſtone | Houghton-Conqueſt, and Houghton-Regis |
| Lalega | |
| Langeford | Langford |
| Leſtone | Leighton-Buſard |
| Litingletone | Litlington |
| Loitone | Luton |
| Malperteſſelle | Mepperſhall |
| Melceburne | Melchbourn |
| Meldone | Maulden |
| Melebroc | Milbrook |
| Melehou | Milnho, in Dunton |
| Mereſtone | Marſton-Morteyne |
| Middletone, or Middenton | Milton Bryant, and Milton-Erneſt |
| Newentone | |
| Northgivil | Northill |
| Otone | Wotton |

Pabeneham

| | |
|---|---|
| Pabeneham | Pavingham |
| Pecheſdone | |
| Pileworde | Tilſworth |
| Podintone | Puddington |
| Polocheſſelle | Pulloxhill |
| Poteſgrave | Poteſgrave |
| Potone | Potton |
| Preſtley | Preſtley, in Flitwick |
| Putenhou | Puttenhoe, in Goldington |
| Radwelle | Radwell, in Felmerſham |
| Riſeden | Probably Ravenſden |
| Riſlai | Riſeley |
| Rocheſdone, or Rocheſtone | Roxton |
| Salchou | |
| Saleford | Salford |
| Sandeia | Sandy |
| Segenhou | Segenhoe, in Ridgmont |
| Segreſdon | |
| Sernebroc | Sharnbrook |
| Sethlingdone | Shitlington |
| Sewelle | Sewell, in Houghton Regis |
| Sewileſſou | Silſoe, in Flitton |
| Sonedone | Sundon |
| Stachedene | Stagſden |
| Stanedone | Stondon |
| Stanewiga | |
| Stanford | Stanford, in Southill |
| Stepigelai | Stepingley |
| Stiventone | Steventon |
| Stotfalt | Stotfold |
| Stradli, or Straillei | Stretley |
| Stratone | Stratton in Biggleſwade |
| Sudgivele | Southill |
| Sudtone, or Suttone | Sutton |
| Tamiſeford | Tempsford |
| Tilebroc | Tilbrook |
| Tingrei | Tingrith |
| Torvei | Turvey |
| Totenhou | Totternhoe |
| Wadelle, or Wadhulle | Odell |
| Wardone | Warden |
| Welitone | Willington |
| Weſtcote | |
| Wiledene | Wilden |
| Wimentone | Wimington |
| Wineſſameſtede | Wilhamſted |
| Woburne | Woburn |
| Wyboldeſtone | Wyboſton, in Biggleſwade. |

The pariſhes of Dunſtaple, Hulcot, Kempſton, Pertenhall, Ridgmont, Souldrop, Little Staughton, Thurleigh, Weſtoning, Whipſnade, Wreſtlingworth, and ſeveral conſiderable hamlets and manors, are not mentioned in the ſurvey.

## *Eccleſiaſtical Diviſion of* BEDFORDSHIRE.

THIS County, which lies within the dioceſe of Lincoln, is under the juriſdiction of an Archdeacon, and is divided into ſix Deaneries, viz. Bedford, Clopham, Dunſtaple, Eaton, Fleete, and Shefford. Wolſey's liſt, quoted by Camden, makes the number of pariſhes 116; the preſent number is 121. Several of the benefices are conſolidated, as Aſpley-Guiſe, with Huſborn-Crawley; Aſtwick with Arleſey; Barford with Roxton; Battleſden with Poteſgrave; Carlton with Chillington; Chalgrave with Hockliffe; Felmerſham with Pavingham; Hulcot with Salford; Knotting with Souldrop; and Southill with Old-Warden. The pariſhes, nevertheleſs, remain diſtinct: ſome of the conſolidations are of recent date[a]. Shefford is a chapel of eaſe to Campton; Silſoe to Flitton. Billington, Egginton, Heath and Reach, and Stanbridge, are all chapels to Leighton-Buſard. Of the

[a] See the dates under the reſpective pariſhes.

121 pa-

121 parishes, 63 are vicarages: the great tithes of these, with very few exceptions, were appropriated formerly to religious houses, and are now in lay hands.

*Monasteries and Hospitals.*

THE Benedictine Nuns had an Abbey at Elstow; the Cistercian Monks, Abbeys at Warden and Woburn; the Austin Canons, Priories at Dunstaple, Bissemede, or Bushmead, Caldwell and Newenham; the Austin Nuns a Priory at Harold; the Gilbertines a Priory at Chicksand; the Grey Friers a house at Bedford; the Black Friers at Dunstaple; the Knights Hospitallers a preceptory at Melchbourn. At Grovebury, in the parish of Leighton-Busard, was an alien Priory, subject to the Abbey of Fontevralt in Normandy; at Milbrook and Clophill were cells to the Benedictine Abbey of St. Alban's. At Ruxox in Flitwick, a cell to the Priory of Dunstaple, and at Leighton-Busard a cell to Woburn-Abbey. These cells seem to have been all removed at an early period. At Northill was a college of Priests. There were ancient hospitals at Dunstaple, Farleigh, Hockliffe, and Toddington, and two at Bedford, dedicated to St. John and St. Leonard.

*Market and Borough Towns.*

THIS county sends two members to parliament. Bedford, the county-town, which is the only parliamentary borough, sends also two members. Dunstaple, which was made a royal borough by Henry I., never sent representatives to parliament. Browne Willis, in his *Notitia Parliamentaria*, states the number of market-towns to be ten; the editors of the *Magna Britannia*, and most modern writers, mention the same number. In the last edition of Camden, they are said to be eleven, which was correct at the time of that publication, the markets at Shefford and Toddington having been since discontinued. The market-house at Toddington was pulled down in 1799: a century ago this town had one of the most considerable markets in the county. The present number of market-towns is nine, Ampthill, Bedford, Biggleswade, Dunstaple, Harold, Leighton-Busard, Luton, Potton, and Woburn. Harold, which has been omitted by most writers who have enumerated the Bedfordshire towns, still keeps up the name of a market on Tuesdays, though it is attended only by one or two butchers, who open shambles on that day. Bedford, Biggleswade, and Luton, are the principal markets for corn. Potton has declined within these few years. Leighton is noted for its abundant supply of suckling calves. Arlesey, Aspley Guise, Blunham, Silsoe in the parish of Flitton, Marston-Morteyne, Melchbourn, Odell, Sundon, Warden and Westoning, had formerly markets, as appears by their respective charters among the records in the Tower. They have all been long since discontinued, not one of them being enumerated in Leland's list. Arlesey is mentioned as a market town in the survey of Doomsday.

*Population.*

*Population.*

In the year 1377, the number of perſons in this county who were charged to a poll-tax, from which the clergy, children, and paupers, were exempted, amounted to 20,239. This poll-tax took place not long after a very fatal peſtilence.

The number of inhabited houſes in this county in 1801, according to the returns made to Parliament, purſuant to the act for aſcertaining the population of the kingdom, was 11,888; of uninhabited houſes 185; the number of inhabitants 63,393. Of theſe 30,523 were males; 32,870 females.

The following account of the number of houſes, families, and perſons in each pariſh, is taken from the above-mentioned return, and arranged alphabetically:

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Perſons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ampthill | 237 | 3 | 266 | 1234 |
| Arleſey | 69 | 1 | 79 | 404 |
| Aſpley Guiſe | 100 | 3 | 114 | 679 |
| Aſtwick | 12 | 0 | 16 | 81 |
| Great Barford | 83 | 4 | 83 | 431 |
| Little Barford | 18 | 0 | 18 | 80 |
| Barton | 71 | 5 | 88 | 448 |
| Battleſden | 21 | 0 | 28 | 133 |
| Bedford, St. Paul's | 444 | 9 | 554 | 2150 |
| ——— St. Cuthbert's | 82 | 4 | 107 | 351 |
| ——— St. Peter's | 87 | 4 | 98 | 577 |
| ——— St. John's | 54 | 0 | 62 | 254 |
| ——— St. Mary's | 116 | 0 | 154 | 616 |
| Biddenham | 57 | 1 | 61 | 252 |
| Biggleſwade | 298 | 3 | 241 | 1650 |
| ——— Holme in the Pariſh of Biggleſwade | 11 | 2 | 12 | 80 |
| ——— Stratton in the Pariſh of Biggleſwade | 8 | 0 | 9 | 64 |
| Bletſoe | 56 | 1 | 70 | 321 |
| Blunham | 73 | 0 | 83 | 376 |
| ——— Muggerhanger, in the Pariſh of Blunham | 43 | 0 | 76 | 345 |
| Bolnhurſt | 35 | 0 | 42 | 225 |
| Bromham | 43 | 0 | 58 | 297 |
| Caddington | 54 | 0 | 67 | 319 |
| ——— Market Street (partly in Caddington, and partly in Studham) | 28 | 1 | 43 | 235 |
| Campton | 45 | 1 | 47 | 316 |
| ——— Shefford Townſhip, in the Pariſh of Campton | 90 | 0 | 107 | 474 |
| Cardington | 92 | 0 | 100 | 509 |
| ——— Cotton-End in the Pariſh of Cardington | 43 | 0 | 48 | 190 |
| ——— Harrowden and Fenlake in the Pariſh of Cardington | 51 | 0 | 59 | 314 |
| Carlton | 87 | 6 | 89 | 376 |

Chalgrave

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Perſons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chalgrave | 73 | 1 | 114 | 534 |
| Chickſand (Extra-parochial) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 42 |
| Chillington | 24 | 1 | 26 | 112 |
| Clapham | 30 | 0 | 36 | 157 |
| Clifton | 62 | 1 | 75 | 329 |
| Clophill | 142 | 1 | 148 | 706 |
| Colmworth | 56 | 0 | 63 | 347 |
| Cople | 41 | 0 | 53 | 403 |
| Cranfield | 202 | 3 | 241 | 961 |
| Dean | 82 | 0 | 84 | 385 |
| Dunſtaple | 243 | 2 | 296 | 1296 |
| Dunton | 61 | 0 | 61 | 336 |
| Eaton Bray | 104 | 0 | 122 | 583 |
| Eaton Socon | 332 | 12 | 461 | 1625 |
| Edworth | 16 | 1 | 16 | 90 |
| Elſtow | 96 | 2 | 116 | 475 |
| Everſholt | 143 | 3 | 160 | 715 |
| Everton (Bedfordſhire part of) | 26 | 0 | 31 | 141 |
| Eyworth | 13 | 1 | 19 | 86 |
| Farndiſh | 11 | 1 | 14 | 68 |
| Felmerſham | 40 | 0 | 48 | 201 |
| ——— Radwell (in Felmerſham) | 23 | 2 | 30 | 128 |
| Flitton | 49 | 0 | 61 | 292 |
| ——— Silſoe (in Flitton) | 73 | 0 | 95 | 447 |
| Flitwick | 80 | 1 | 101 | 436 |
| Goldington | 60 | 1 | 74 | 339 |
| Upper Gravenhurſt | 31 | 2 | 44 | 201 |
| Lower Gravenhurſt | 9 | 1 | 9 | 48 |
| Harlington | 63 | 2 | 70 | 344 |
| Harold | 155 | 0 | 166 | 763 |
| Hatley Cockayne | 18 | 1 | 20 | 102 |
| Hawnes | 82 | 0 | 121 | 588 |
| Henlow | 99 | 1 | 114 | 552 |
| Higham Gobion | 15 | 1 | 17 | 91 |
| Hockliffe | 52 | 1 | 53 | 256 |
| Holwell | 20 | 0 | 20 | 113 |
| Houghton Conqueſt | 100 | 5 | 120 | 507 |
| Houghton Regis | 139 | 1 | 165 | 784 |
| Hulcot | 10 | 0 | 10 | 65 |
| Huſborn Crawley | 101 | 5 | 125 | 543 |
| Kempſton | 180 | 2 | 206 | 1035 |
| Keyſoe | 158 | 0 | 175 | 370 |
| Knotting | 22 | 0 | 22 | 105 |
| Langford | 73 | 3 | 98 | 458 |

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Perſons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leighton Buſard | 376 | 11 | 392 | 1963 |
| ——— Billington (in the Pariſh of Leighton) | 39 | 1 | 48 | 200 |
| ——— Egginton (in the Pariſh of Leighton) | 44 | 0 | 46 | 206 |
| ——— Heath and Reach (in the Pariſh of Leighton) | 111 | 0 | 111 | 541 |
| ——— Stanbridge (in the Pariſh of Leighton) | 57 | 0 | * | 262 |
| Litlington | 106 | 4 | 145 | 559 |
| Luton | 612 | 0 | 656 | 3095 |
| Marſton Morteyne | 130 | 3 | 161 | 709 |
| Maulden | 125 | 0 | 173 | 738 |
| Melchbourn | 40 | 0 | 40 | 229 |
| Mepperſhall | 51 | 4 | 56 | 309 |
| Milbrook | 67 | 0 | 71 | 327 |
| Milton Bryant | 64 | 1 | 76 | 333 |
| Milton Erneſt | 59 | 6 | 69 | 300 |
| Northill | 122 | 0 | 149 | 715 |
| Oakley | 68 | 0 | 72 | 265 |
| Odell | 63 | 0 | 69 | 361 |
| Pavingham | 57 | 1 | 86 | 447 |
| Pertenhall | 38 | 0 | 44 | 190 |
| Poteſgrave | 29 | 0 | 35 | 157 |
| Potton | 239 | 2 | 255 | 1103 |
| Puddington | 70 | 0 | 92 | 415 |
| Pulloxhill | 52 | 4 | 92 | 317 |
| Ravenſden | 33 | 0 | 46 | 218 |
| Renhold | 34 | 0 | 54 | 245 |
| Ridgmont | 113 | 2 | 132 | 581 |
| Riſely | 108 | 1 | 128 | 576 |
| Roxton | 66 | 1 | 80 | 465 |
| Salford | 46 | 1 | 46 | 210 |
| Sandy | 108 | 1 | 119 | 615 |
| —— Beeſton (in the Pariſh of Sandy) | 28 | 0 | 35 | 180 |
| —— Girtford (in the Pariſh of Sandy) | 54 | 0 | 86 | 320 |
| Sharnbrook | 101 | 0 | 122 | 585 |
| Shelton | 18 | 1 | 19 | 100 |
| Shitlington | 80 | 1 | 85 | 420 |
| Souldrop | 30 | 0 | 47 | 188 |
| Southill | 107 | 3 | 129 | 621 |
| ——— Broom (in the Pariſh of Southill) | 30 | 0 | 36 | 187 |
| ——— Stanford (in the Pariſh of Southill) | 36 | 0 | 38 | 177 |
| Stagſden | 84 | 0 | 114 | 492 |
| Little Staughton | 54 | 0 | 58 | 272 |
| Stepingley | 46 | 1 | 46 | 264 |

* No return of families.

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Perſons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stevington | 78 | 0 | 99 | 415 |
| Stondon | 5 | 0 | 5 | 29 |
| Stotfold | 92 | 1 | 101 | 495 |
| Stretly | 42 | 4 | 46 | 209 |
| Studham | 22 | 0 | 22 | 99 |
| Sundon | 61 | 1 | 61 | 315 |
| Sutton | 68 | 0 | 71 | 301 |
| Tempsford | 78 | 2 | 91 | 409 |
| Thurleigh | 69 | 1 | 91 | 411 |
| Tilbrook | 40 | 2 | 49 | 219 |
| Tilſworth | 38 | 2 | 36 | 195 |
| Tingrith | 23 | 0 | 26 | 116 |
| Toddington | 360 | 5 | 360 | 1143 |
| Toternhoe | 65 | 0 | 65 | 332 |
| Turvey | 151 | 0 | 168 | 758 |
| Warden | 63 | 0 | 92 | 455 |
| Weſton-ing | 76 | 1 | 89 | 410 |
| Whipſnade | 28 | 0 | 30 | 140 |
| Wilden | 53 | 0 | 70 | 300 |
| Wilhamſted | 84 | 1 | 90 | 477 |
| Willington | 36 | 0 | 44 | 229 |
| Wimington | 36 | 0 | 39 | 226 |
| Woburn | 277 | 6 | 336 | 1563 |
| Wotton | 139 | 1 | 148 | 732 |
| Wreſtlingworth | 56 | 3 | 74 | 330 |
| Yielden | 41 | 1 | 45 | 209 |

*Principal Land-owners at various Periods, and principal extinct Families.*

At the time of the Norman ſurvey, the principal land-owners of this county were Hugh de Beauchamp, who poſſeſſed no leſs than 20 manors; Nigel de Albini (anceſtor of the Mowbrays), who had 12 manors[t]; William Spech, or Eſpec, and Walter Giffard, who had 6 manors each; Walter Flandrenſis (anceſtor of the barons Wahul), who had 5 manors; and Judith, Counteſs of Northumberland, who had 7. Ten manors belonged to religious houſes. The Beauchamps had the chief ſeat of their Barony at Bedford: a younger branch of the family had a caſtle at Eaton Socon. Their large property was divided among female heirs. The greater part of their lands in this county fell to the ſhare of the Mowbrays. The principal part of Nigel de Albini's eſtates in Bedfordſhire went to a younger ſon, who had a caſtle at Cainhoe, in the pariſh of Clophill, and paſſed by a female heir

[t] Dugdale enumerates 23; it appears that he had that number of eſtates, but eleven of them are not deſcribed as manors.

to

to the St. Amands, who were conſiderable land-owners in this county in the 13th and 14th centuries. The Wahuls, or Wodhuls, deſcended from Walter Flandrenſis, were barons, and continued in the male line till about the year 1550. Agnes, only child of the laſt male heir, married Richard Chetwode eſq. and died in 1575. The chief ſeat of the Wahuls was at Wodhul, or Odell Caſtle, which paſſed, with other eſtates, to the Chetwodes. The Wahuls had ſeats alſo at Shortgrave and Segenhoe. Segenhoe caſtle is mentioned in the chronicle of Dunſtaple priory under the year 1276. It ſeems to have been afterwards the ſeat of lord Grey of Ridgmont.

Among the earlieſt extinct families which are known, by records ſubſequent to the Norman ſurvey, to have poſſeſſed property in this county, may be reckoned the Barons Trally, Patſhull, and Cantilupe, the families of Hoo, Firmband, Pabenham, Pavely and Morteyne. The Trallys were not ſummoned to parliament after the reign of king John, but the family was not extinct till about the year 1350. Their chief ſeat was at Yielden, anciently called Giveldune. The Patſhulls, who had their ſeat at Bletſoe, were extinct in the male line about the year 1368; their Bedfordſhire eſtates paſſed by a coheireſs to the family of Beauchamp, and from them to the St. Johns, who had before inherited conſiderable eſtates by a female heir from the Pavelys. The Cantilupes became extinct in the year 1272, when their eſtates in this county devolved by a coheir to the Zouches, and paſſed from them by purchaſe, about the year 1480, to the Brays, an ancient family, who gave name to the village of Eaton-Bray. They were ennobled in the 21ſt year of king Henry VIIIth's reign; and became extinct in the principal branch by the death of John lord Bray, without iſſue, in 1557.

The noble family of Grey of Ruthin, was ſettled at Wreſt in this county before the year 1324. Their eſtates are now poſſeſſed by their repreſentative Lady Lucas, grand-daughter of Henry the laſt earl of Kent, who in 1710 was advanced to a dukedom, and died without leaving any male iſſue.

The Hoos, though not mentioned in the record of Doomſday, are ſaid to have been ſettled at Luton-Hoo before the conqueſt[a]. Sir Thomas Hoo was created lord Hoo and Haſtings in 1447, and dying without iſſue male, his Bedfordſhire eſtate went to his eldeſt daughter, who married ſir Geoffrey Boleyne. Paulinus Peyvre, a man who from a mean origin was raiſed to the high ſtation of Steward of the houſehold to Henry III., having amaſſed great wealth, became the founder of a family, who had their chief ſeat at Toddington, and poſſeſſed conſiderable eſtates in the county, which, after a ſucceſſion of ſeveral generations, paſſed, by an heir fe-

[a] See Chauncy's hiſtory of Hertfordſhire, p. 510.

male, to the Broughtons. The Goſtwicks became poſſeſſed of a large landed property in this county, about the end of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th centuries, principally by purchaſe from the Mowbrays. Their ſeat was at Willington. William Goſtwick, of that place, was created a baronet in 1612. The title and family are extinct. Moſt of their eſtates were purchaſed by Sarah ducheſs of Marlborough, and are now, by ſubſequent purchaſes, in the Bedford family. The Charnocks, who ſettled in this county about the year 1500, had their chief ſeat at Hulcot. St. John Charnock eſq. was created a baronet in 1661. The male line of this family became extinct by the death of Sir Villiers Charnock, the laſt baronet, in 1779, when the eſtates paſſed to the family of Hervey of Chilton in Buckinghamſhire, as heirs in the female line. The Cockaynes, who gave name to the village of Cockayne-Hatley, were deſcended from chief baron Cockayne, who purchaſed an eſtate there, and died in 1427. This family has not long been extinct. They are repreſented in the female line by the Cuſts. The Conqueſts, who gave name to Houghton-Conqueſt, were ſettled in that village as early as the 13th century. The family became extinct by the death of Benedict Conqueſt eſq. father of lady Arundel of Wardour.

Fuller, who wrote in the reign of Charles II., after giving, from an ancient record, a catalogue of the principal gentry of Bedfordſhire in the time of Henry VI., ſays, "Hungry Time has made a glutton's meal on this catalogue of gentry, and hath left but a little morſel, for manners, remaining; ſo few of theſe are found extant in this ſhire, and fewer continuing in genteel equipage; among whom I muſt not forget the family of the Blundells, whereof ſir Edward Blundell behaved himſelf right valiantly in the unfortunate expedition to the iſle of Roe[x]." The only family in this catalogue that is not now extinct, is that of Mordaunt, ſince ennobled, and no longer connected with the county. The Blundells, the Haſeldens of Goldington, and the Conqueſts, have become extinct ſince Fuller's time. The Wingates of Harlington are extinct alſo in the male line, being repreſented by the family of Jennings.

A few families which ſettled in the county at a later period have alſo become extinct. The Fitzjefferys of Creakers in Barford, were ſettled there not long after the reign of Henry VI., and became extinct in the 17th century. The Aſtreys came into Bedfordſhire in the early part of the 16th century. The late Dr. Aſtrey was the laſt heir male of this family, whoſe eſtates have paſſed, by inheritance in the female line, to the Penyſtons of Cornwell in Oxfordſhire. The Bechers, who were of Howbury in Renhold, as early as the reign of Henry VIII., have not long

[x] The expedition to the iſle of Rhée, under the duke of Buckingham.

been

been extinct. They poſſeſſed conſiderable eſtates in that neighbourhood, which were ſold about the year 1780. The Gerys, who ſettled at Buſhmead priory ſoon after the diſſolution of Monaſteries, became extinct in the male line by the death of the late William Gery eſq. in 1802. The Rev. Hugh Wade, who married one of his daughters and co-heirs, and ſome years ago took the name of Gery at the requeſt of his father-in-law, in addition to his own, reſides at Buſhmead. The Caters, who had a ſeat at Kempſton, and poſſeſſed conſiderable eſtates there for nearly two centuries, have not long been extinct. Their eſtates have ſince been ſold. The Bromſalls of Blunham, who had large eſtates in that, and ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes, during the 17th century, are ſuppoſed to be extinct. Some of their eſtates were ſold in the reign of queen Anne.

*Nobility of the County, and Places which have given Titles to any Ranks or Branches of the Peerage.*

BEDFORD, the county-town, has given title to ſeveral noble families. Ingram de Coucy, conſtable of France, and earl of Soiſſons, was created earl of Bedford by Edward III. in 1365. John Plantagenet, third ſon of Henry IV., was created duke of Bedford, and was afterwards Regent of France. George Plantagenet, youngeſt ſon of king Edward IV., who died in his infancy, had the title of duke of Bedford. George Neville was created duke of Bedford in 1470, and degraded in 1478. Jaſper Tudor, (uncle of Henry VII.) was created duke of Bedford in 1485; the title became again extinct at his death. The lady Mary, daughter to Henry VIII., (afterwards queen of England,) was created counteſs of Bedford by her father, in 1537[y]. In 1549 the earldom was revived in the perſon of John lord Ruſſell, whoſe deſcendant was, in 1694, advanced to the dukedom. In this family the title ſtill continues. Cranfield, a village on the borders of Buckinghamſhire, gives the title of baron to the duke of Dorſet, whoſe anceſtor Charles Sackville, was in 1675 created baron Cranfield, and earl of Middleſex. When Henry earl of Kent was in 1706 advanced to the rank of a marquis, he was at the ſame time created earl of Harold in Bedfordſhire, which title was borne by his only ſon, who died in his father's life-time. Milbrook near Ampthill gave the title of baron in 1442 to ſir John Cornwall, who was alſo lord Fanhope, by which title he was generally known. William Clayton eſq. being poſſeſſed of the manor of Sundon, in this county, was in 1735 created an Iriſh peer by the title of lord Sundon, which became extinct at his death. Theſe are the only places in the county which have given titles to any orders of the peerage.

[y] See Gough's Camden.

The

The following peers, upon their ſummons or creation, were deſcribed as of places in this county. Lord Beauchamp of Bletſoe; lord Grey of Ridgmont; lord Bray of Eaton-Bray; and lord Cheney of Toddington, all extinct; lord Mordaunt of Turvey (now earl of Peterborough); lord St. John of Bletſoe; Viſc. Bruce of Ampthill (now earl of Ayleſbury); lord Bathurſt of Battleſden; lord Carteret of Hawnes; and lord Byng of Southill (now Viſc. Torrington). When lord Ongley was created an Iriſh peer he was deſcribed as of Old-Warden, which, by a fiction in uſe upon ſuch occaſions, is ſaid to be in the kingdom of Ireland. The earls of Peterborough and Ayleſbury, lord Bathurſt and lord Torrington are not now connected with this county.

*Noblemen's Seats.*

FULLER tells us, that in his time Toddington, Ampthill (by which he means Houghton Park, the ſeat of the earls of Ayleſbury, partly in Ampthill pariſh), and Woburn, carried away the credit among the houſes of the nobility. Toddington houſe, which after the Cheneys, became a ſeat of the noble family of Wentworth, has been nearly pulled down. Houghton Park is in ruins. Woburn, with increaſed magnificence, is ſtill the chief ſeat of the noble family of Ruſſell, who firſt ſettled in this county in the reign of Henry VIII. That monarch granted to their anceſtor John lord Ruſſell the ſcite of Woburn abbey, and ſeveral manors which had belonged to the abbot and convent. Their eſtates have been from time to time augmented by various purchaſes, particularly by the grandfather of the preſent duke; and now form what may be conſidered as by far the largeſt landed property in the county. The duke of Bedford has a pretty villa at Oakley, which was his chief reſidence before he ſucceeded to the title. The marquis of Bute, the earl of Upper-Oſſory, lady Lucas, lord St. John, lord Carteret, and lord Ongley, have ſeats in this county. The earl of Aſhburnham has no ſeat at Clapham, as erroneouſly ſtated in ſome of the Peerages, and other works. He inherited the manor in conſequence of his anceſtor's marriage with the heireſs of Mr. Taylor of that place; but the manor-houſe is an inconſiderable building, and has long been occupied as a farm. Lord Hampden has a ſmall villa at Bromham, on the banks of the Ouſe, which he ſeldom viſits. It was a favourite reſidence of the late lord.

The Marquis of Bute's father, the late Earl, purchaſed Luton-Hoo in 1763, and began a magnificent manſion which is not yet completed. The Earl of Oſſory's family ſettled in this county in 1736, when Ampthill park was purchaſed by his grandmother, Lady Gowran. Lady Lucas, as before mentioned, inherits Wreſt Park, as repreſentative of the ancient and noble family of Grey, who were ſettled there before the year 1324. The St. Johns became poſſeſſed of conſiderable

able eſtates in Bedfordſhire in the 14th century, by marriages with the Pavelys and Patſhulls. They were ennobled in 1559. Bletſoe, then the family ſeat, is now a farm houſe. Melchbourn, their preſent reſidence, came into the family by purchaſe; exactly at what time cannot be learned. It had been in the Ruſſell family, by grant from the crown, after the diſſolution of Monaſteries. Lord Carteret's anceſtors ſettled in this county by the purchaſe of Hawnes Park, in the year 1667. Lord Hampden inherits Bromham from Lord Trevor, who purchaſed that and other eſtates about a century ago. Lord Ongley inherits his ſeat at Warden from Sir Samuel Ongley, an opulent merchant, who purchaſed it about 1690. His father changed his name from Henley.

Earl Spencer, although he has no reſidence in this county, has conſiderable eſtates, the greater part of which have been in his family for nearly two centuries. Others were purchaſed by the Ducheſs of Marlborough, and by her bequeathed to his grandfather, the Honourable John Spencer.

*Baronets extinct and exiſting.*

THE extinct baronets of this county are, Napier of Luton-Hoo, created in 1612, and extinct in 1747; Goſtwick of Willington, created in 1612, extinct about 20 years ago; Winch of Hawnes, created in 1660; Charnock of Hulcot, created in 1661, extinct in 1779; Anderſon of Eyworth, created in 1664, and extinct in 1773; Sabine of Eyne, or Ion, created in 1671; and Corniſh of Sharnbrook, created in 1765, and extinct in 1770.

The preſent baronets who have ſeats in the county are Sir Montague Burgoyne of Sutton; Sir Philip Monnoux of Sandy; Sir George Oſborn of Chickſand; and Sir Hugh Inglis of Milton-Bryant.

The Burgoynes are one of the moſt ancient families in this county, where they appear to have been ſettled as early as the latter end of the 15th century. Sir Montague Burgoyne's anceſtor was created a baronet in 1641. The Monnouxes were originally a Worceſterſhire family. Humphrey Monnoux, grandfather of Humphrey, who was created a baronet in 1660, was the firſt who ſettled in Bedfordſhire, at Wotton, the ancient family ſeat, now occupied by a tenant. Sandy, their preſent reſidence, appears to have been a ſubſequent purchaſe. The Oſborns were an Eſſex family. Sir John Oſborn, treaſurer's remembrancer of the Exchequer, ſettled at Chickſand about the year 1600; his grandſon, Sir John Oſborn knt. was created a baronet in 1661. Sir Hugh Inglis, who married the heir of the Johnſons of Milton-Bryant, was created a baronet in 1801.

The anceſtor of the Langleys of Sheriffs-Hutton Park, in Yorkſhire, advanced to the degree of baronet in 1641, was then of Higham-Gobion, in Bedfordſhire, which not

not long afterwards paſſed out of the family. The preſent baronet, of the Alſton family, which was raiſed to that degree in 1641, reſides wholly in Cambridgeſhire: he has no male iſſue, nor is there any preſumptive heir to the title. Odell caſtle, and the Bedfordſhire eſtates of this family are, by ſettlement or bequeſt, the property of Thomas Alſton eſq. Lord Torrington's anceſtor, when he was created a baronet, was deſcribed as of Southill, now the ſeat of Mr. Whitbread. Lord viſcount Newhaven having ſome property, though no reſidence at Marſton-Morteyne, in this county, was, when created a baronet in 1763, (by the name of Sir William Mayne) deſcribed as of that place.

Sir Gregory Page Turner bart. of Ambroſden, in Oxfordſhire, has a ſeat in this county at Battleſden, by inheritance from the Pages. The late Sir Gillias Payne bart. had a ſeat at Tempsford, which he purchaſed in 1772, now the property of his grandſon, a minor.

### *Principal Gentry, and their Seats.*

THE moſt diſtinguiſhed ſeats of the gentry are, Odell Caſtle, Mr. Alſton's; Southill, the ſeat of Samuel Whitbread eſq. M. P.; and Colworth houſe, the ſeat of William Lee Antonie eſq. M. P.; beſides which may be enumerated:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arleſey, | the ſeat of | ——— Edwards | Houghton Regis, | the ſeat of | Henry Brandreth, eſq. |
| Blunham, | | Mrs. Campbell | Howberry, | | J. Polhill, eſq. |
| Buſhmead, | | Rev. H. W. Gery | Ickwell-bury, | | John Harvey, eſq. |
| Egginton, | | Fr. Moore, eſq. | Ickwell, | | C. Fyſhe Palmer, eſq. |
| Fenlake Barns, | | A villa of Mr. Whitbread, | Kempſton, | | Robert Dennis, eſq. |
| Flitwick, | | Geo. Brooks, eſq. in the occupation of the Rt. Hon. John Trevor | Leighton Buſard, | | Hon. Mrs. Leigh, in the occupation of Mr. Dickinſon. |
| | | | Muggerhanger, | | GodfreyThornton,eſq. |
| | | | Ridgmont, | | Dr. Macqueen |
| Harold, | | Robert Garſtin, eſq. | Stockwood, | | John Crawley, eſq. |
| Henlow, | | George Edwards, eſq. | Tingrith, | | C. D. Willaume, eſq. |
| Hinwick, | | Richard Orlebar, eſq. | Turvey, | | John Higgins, eſq. |
| Hockliffe, | | Richard Gilpin, eſq. | Turvey Abbey, | | John Higgins, jun. eſq. |

The Whitbreads are ſaid, by family tradition, as appears by an inſcription on the monument of the preſent Mr. Whitbread's grandfather in Cardington church, to have been of great antiquity in this county; but their name does not occur in the liſt of gentry of the reign of Henry VI.; nor is there any pedigree of the family in the Heralds' viſitations. It is certain, nevertheleſs, that Ion houſe in Gravenhurſt, which, in the inſcription above alluded to, is ſaid to have been the ancient ſeat of the family, was ſold by William Whitbread gent. in 1639, as appears by the

the title-deeds of the preſent poſſeſſor[x]. The Crawleys were ſettled in the pariſh of Luton ſoon after the year 1600, if not before. The Brandreths were ſettled at Houghton-Regis before the year 1672. The Edwards's have been ſettled at Arleſey, and the Harveys, at Ickwell-bury, more than a century. The Willaumes of Tingrith ſettled there in 1710.

*Non-reſident Families.*

A FEW families, which are no longer reſident, ſtill retain their anceſtors' eſtates in this county, as the Leighs, the Franklins, and Sadleirs. The Leighs of Stoneleigh have held the manor of Leighton-Buſard, under the church of Windſor, above 200 years; and ſome of the family formerly reſided in the manor-houſe. The Franklins were of Maverns, in Bolnhurſt, as early as the year 1600; they afterwards removed to Great Barford: it is a conſiderable time ſince they quitted the county. Mr. Franklin, the preſent repreſentative, poſſeſſes the family eſtates at both places. Mr. Sadleir's collateral anceſtor, from whom he inherits the manor of Aſpley-Guiſe, was created a baronet in 1661; and appears to have had a ſeat in that pariſh, although in his patent he was deſcribed of Temple-Dineſley, in Hertfordſhire: ſeveral of the family are interred at Aſpley.

*Geographical and Geological Deſcription of the County.*

THE county of Bedford is bounded on the North and North-Eaſt by Northamptonſhire; on the Eaſt by Huntingdonſhire, Cambridgeſhire, and Hertfordſhire; and on the Weſt by Buckinghamſhire and part of Northamptonſhire.

The author of the General View of the Agriculture of this county, publiſhed by the Board of Agriculture, calculates it to be 145 miles in circuit, incloſing an area of 307,200 acres[y]: of theſe he computes 217,200 to be in open or common fields, common meadows, commons and waſtes; 68,100 in incloſed meadows, paſture, and arable; and 21,900 of woodland. A great proportion of the woodland has been planted within a few years: the chief planters have been the Duke of Bedford, the Earl of Upper-Oſſory, Lord Carteret, and Fr. Moore, eſq. There are ſome woods of conſiderable extent in the neighbourhood of Southill, Warden, Chickſand, and Hawnes. Woburn park is well wooded with oak and other timber trees. In Lord Oſſory's park at Ampthill, ſome aged oaks, of a remarkable ſize, are a great embelliſhment to the ſcenery; and, combined with the natural inequality of the ground, render it very pictureſque: few ſituations in the county have a claim to that deſcription. There is ſome pleaſing ſcenery

[x] See the account of Gravenhurſt.

[y] Dr. Beke calculates the number of acres at 293,059. See his Obſervations on the Income Tax.

about Aſpley-Guiſe, Ridgmont, and Warden. The view from Ridgmont rove Buckinghamſhire is very extenſive. The view from Milbrook church-yard over the vale of Bedford, that from Toternhoe Caſtle over a great part of Bedfordſhire and Buckinghamſhire, and the ride along the downs from Stretley to Barton, looking over Wreſt park and towards Hertfordſhire, claim particular notice.

The ſcenery of Bedfordſhire is conſiderably enlivened by the ſteeples of churches, although not ſo much as in ſome other counties. Towards the borders of Northamptonſhire are ſeveral handſome ſpires; of theſe Keyſoe and Souldrop are moſt conſpicuous in the ſcenery. In the Southern parts of the county, the churches of Toddington and Shillington are among the moſt remarkable, as diſtant objects. In this part of the county the Buckinghamſhire churches of Bow-Brickhill, and Edleſborough are ſtriking objects. The beautiful ſpire of Hanſlape, lately deſtroyed by lightning, was ſeen to much advantage from the neighbourhood of Ridgmont.

Fuller, ſpeaking in general terms of the ſoil of this county, gives a pretty juſt deſcription of it by ſaying, that it is a deep clay, with a belt or girdle of ſand about, or rather athwart, the body of it, from Woburn to Potton. The author of the agricultural report ſays, that there is every ſoil, and every mixture of ſoil, in this county. He deſcribes the prevailing ſoil of the North and Weſt parts to be clay and ſtrong loam; that of the South and Eaſt parts, light loam, ſand, gravel, and chalk. The chalk hills extend acroſs the county, from Hertfordſhire to Buckinghamſhire, including the whole range of Luton and Dunſtaple downs.

## *Produce.*

This county has been long noted for its abundant produce of fine wheat and barley. The vale of Bedford is one of the moſt extenſive corn diſtricts. The cultivation of woad, mentioned by former writers as carried on to a conſiderable extent in Bedfordſhire, has long been wholly laid aſide. Three hundred acres were lately let for this purpoſe at 7*l.* *per* acre at Tyringham and Lathbury, in the neighbouring county of Buckingham; but at the expiration of two years, the term for which this land was taken, the perſons concerned in the culture took ſome land in Northamptonſhire, for the ſame purpoſe, at a lower rent. In ſome parts of Bedfordſhire, particularly in the pariſh of Sandy, garden vegetables are raiſed in conſiderable quantities for the ſupply of the neighbouring towns. In the Southern part of the county are many large dairy farms, the produce of which, being chiefly butter, is conveyed in carts to the London markets.

## Natural History.

### *Foſſils.*

This county does not abound in foſſils either native or extraneous. It has been ſaid indeed that gold ore was formerly diſcovered at Pollux-hill, and that an attempt was made to work a mine there: but it is probable that this idea originated in miſtake. Woodward mentions "a maſs of yellow ſhining talc, with a yellow earthy matter mixt with it," as found at this place: probably a ſimilar ſubſtance was miſtaken for gold, by perſons not ſkilled in mineralogy.

The greater part of the extraneous foſſils which occur in this county, are found in the ſtratum of lime-ſtone, which follows the courſe of the river Ouſe. This ſtratum abounds with the different kinds of ſhells, and other marine productions, which are commonly found imbedded in the yellow lime-ſtone. *Cornua Ammonis*, and other kinds of ſhells, are found in the ſtratum of ſtone in the Toternhoe quarries, which lies above that which is uſed for building; and great abundance of petrified wood, together with *gryphites*, *belemnites*, &c. under the ſtratum of fuller's-earth, at Aſpley. Petrified wood has alſo been found in other parts of this county, where the ſoil is ſandy. The petrifying ſpring ſpoken of by Fuller and other writers does not exiſt.

Woodward mentions *nautili*, and other ſhells, as found in a chalk-pit at Caddington [z]; ſhark's teeth, *ammonites*, *belemnites*, &c. in a light coloured clay near Leighton [a]; and *echini* in the fields near Eaton-bray [b].

### *Rare Plants.*

The botanical hiſtory of this county has been induſtriouſly inveſtigated by the Rev. Dr. Abbot, of Bedford, who has publiſhed a very ample Flora of its indigenous plants. Among the moſt rare are *Lythrum hyſſopifolium*, which grows plentifully in the fields between Oakley and Clapham; *Malaxis paludoſa*, which grows in the neighbourhood of Potton; *Campanula latifolia* and *Eriophoron polyſtachion*, near Dunſtaple; *Geranium Phæum*, near Everſholt; *Hyoſeris minima*, near Aſpley and Ampthill; *Centunculus minimus*, near Ampthill; *Ornithogalum Pyrenaicum*, near Eaton-Socon; *Hypochæris glabra*; *Salix rubra*; *Melampyrum criſtatum*; *Aliſma ranunculoides*; *Inula Helenium*; *Trifolium ochroleucum*; *Carex ſtrigoſa*, and *Phlæum paniculatum*. One ſhould be almoſt inclined to ſuppoſe that the ſeeds of the *Draba muralis* and *Erodium moſchatum*, two Northern plants

[z] Catalogue, vol. II. p. 93. b. 6. [a] Ibid. b. 10, and p. 104. i. 2. [b] Ibid. p. 67, h. 49, and p. 72. h. 162.

found by Dr. Abbot in Bedfordſhire ſince the publication of his Flora, had been introduced into this county by ſome botaniſt. Many rare plants have thus become naturalized, at places very remote from that of their original growth. Dr. Abbot found the *Euphorbia Cyparissias*, conſidered as a doubtful native plant, growing wild in Barton-Leet woods.

### *Mineral Waters.*

SEVERAL ſprings in this county are known to be impregnated with various minerals, but none of them have acquired much celebrity. The ingenious Dr. Yeats, phyſician to the Infirmary at Bedford, who has beſtowed conſiderable attention on this ſubject, has favoured us with a liſt of the places where mineral ſprings have been pointed out to him, and the reſult of his analyſis of a few of them. The ſprings enumerated are at Barton; Bedford (near the Friars); Cupwell at Bletſoe (near the Falcon); Poplar well at Blunham (near Barford bridge); Bromham (near Webb's lane); Buſhmead; Clapham; Cranfield; Hulcot; Milton-Erneſt; two at Odell; Chadwell at Pertenhall; a well called Ochres at Riſely; Silſoe (at a farm called New Inn); Turvey (in Dovehouſe Cloſe); and the ſpring which ſupplies the cold bath in Wreſt-gardens. Dr. Yeats has analyſed the water from Clapham, Wreſt-gardens, Bromham, Oakley, and Turvey. "The two firſt evidently contain iron. In the Wreſt-garden water, iron appears to be held in ſolution by the carbonic acid; in the Clapham water, by the vitriolic acid forming the *ferrum vitriolatum*. They both of them contain alſo the *ſulphat* and *muriat* of lime, as likewiſe the *ſulphat* of magneſia, or Epſom ſalts. The Bromham water contains no iron, but holds in ſolution the different ſalts juſt mentioned; the *muriat* of lime being in conſiderable quantity." The ſpring at Oakley contains the ſame ſalts in ſmall quantities, except that it is not ferruginous: it is remarkably clear and tranſparent. The ſpring at Turvey contains "a very large proportion of lime, held in ſolution by a ſuperabundance of carbonic acid." Of the waters which have not been analyſed, one of the ſprings at Odell is known to be mildly cathartic; and Chadwell at Pertenhall, ſomewhat ferruginous.

### *Rivers.*

THE principal rivers in this county are the Ouſe and the Ivel. The circuitous courſe of the Ouſe ſeems to have been much exaggerated. Fuller ſays that its courſe through this county (which is only 18 miles in width) is no leſs than 80 miles; and the editors of the *Magna Britannia* ſtate it to be 90 miles: but as it is deſcribed on Jeffries's map, which was made by a trigonometrical ſurvey, its courſe does not appear to be more than forty-five miles.

The

The Ouſe enters this county, on its courſe from Buckinghamſhire, in the pariſh of Turvey; from whence it paſſes between Carlton and Harold; between Odell and Chillington, near Felmerſham, Sharnbrook, Bletſoe, Milton-Erneſt, and Oakley; between Bromham and Biddenham to Bedford, where it becomes navigable; thence near Goldington, Willington, Barford, Tempsford, Roxton, Little Barford, and Eaton-Socon: between the laſt mentioned place and St. Neots, it quits the county, and enters Huntingdonſhire. The principal bridges over the Ouſe are Carlton, Radwell, Stafford bridge near Oakley, Bromham, Bedford, Barford, and Tempsford. Over the laſt mentioned bridge paſſes the great road from London to Glaſgow.

The fiſh of the Ouſe are pike, perch, bream, chub, bleak, cray-fiſh, fine eels, dace, roach, and gudgeon. Bleak abound particularly about Bedford bridge. Eels are found in the greateſt abundance, and of the largeſt ſize, at Stoke mill. The Ouſe is eſteemed a good river for trolling [y]. The average depth of the Ouſe is conſidered to be about 10 feet; at Sharnbrook it is not leſs than 25 feet, in few places leſs than 4: there are, notwithſtanding, ſeveral fords; as at Odell, Pinchmill in the pariſh of Sharnbrook, Radwell, Oakley, Clapham, Kempſton, Tempsford, &c.

The river Ouſe is ſubject at all ſeaſons of the year to ſudden inundations, which are not only deſtructive to the produce of the rich meadows on its banks, but have in ſome inſtances been the cauſe of more extenſive calamities, particularly at the town of Bedford in the year 1256, as recorded by Matthew Paris; and in 1570, as related in two pamphlets bearing that date. The effects of a dreadful ſtorm, which happened Auguſt 19, 1672, are related alſo in two pamphlets. The Cambridgeſhire proverb of "the bailiff of Bedford is coming," mentioned by Fuller, alludes to the inundations of the Ouſe, a moſt rapacious diſtrainer of hay and cattle.

The Ivel riſes near Baldock in Hertfordſhire, and enters Bedfordſhire near Stotfold, not far from Arlefey; it is augmented by a ſmall ſtream called the Hiz: paſſing near Henlow to Langford, it is there joined by a rivulet, which conveys to it the waters of two ſmaller ſtreams, which unite near Shefford. One of theſe ſtreams paſſes through ſir George Oſborn's grounds at Chickſand. At Biggleſwade, the Ivel becomes navigable, and paſſes thence near Sandy and Blunham to Tempsford, where it falls into the Ouſe. The only conſiderable bridges over the Ivel are at Girtford (a hamlet of Sandy) and at Biggleſwade. The bridge at Girtford was rebuilt with ſtone from the quarry at Sandy in 1781, that at Biggleſwade in 1796, both under the inſpection of ſir Philip Monnoux. The fiſh of the Ivel are for the moſt part the ſame as thoſe of the Ouſe: it is particularly famous for gudgeon. An act of parliament paſſed in 1757, for making the Ivel and its branches

[y] Daniel's Book of Sports.

navigable,

navigable, from the Ouſe at Tempsford to Shotling *alias* Burntmill, in the pariſh of Hitchin, and Blackhorſe mill in the pariſh of Bygrave, Herts, and to the North and South bridges in Shefford. Under this act the Ivel was in 1758 made navigable to Biggleſwade, but the navigation has not as yet been extended any farther.

The river Lea, whoſe courſe is principally through Hertfordſhire, riſes near Houghton-Regis in this county, and runs through the whole extent of Luton pariſh, feeding a fine piece of water in the marquis of Bute's park.

The river Ouzel riſes not far from Whipſnade, and leaving Eaton-Bray on the right, ſeparates this county from Buckinghamſhire in its courſe to Leighton-Buſard.

No navigable canal paſſes through this county; but the Grand Junction Canal touches on its borders in the neighbourhood of Leighton-Buſard, and comes up to that town. It has been in contemplation to make a canal from Leighton to join the Ouſe at Bedford.

## *Roads.*

THE great northern road to Glaſgow, &c. enters Bedfordſhire about the 41 mile-ſtone, and paſſes between Aſtwick and Edworth to Biggleſwade; thence through the hamlets of Lower Caldecot and Beeſton-croſs to Girtford, where it croſſes the Ivel, and leaving Blunham on the left, proceeds to Tempsford: here a turnpike road to St. Neots branches off, and goes about two miles through this county, paſſing through Little Barford. The Glaſgow road croſſes the Ouſe at Tempsford, and leaving Roxton on the left, paſſes through the hamlet of Wyboſton to Eaton Socon, about two miles beyond which it quits the county.

The great road to Cheſter and Holyhead enters this county about the thirty-three mile-ſtone, a mile before you come to Dunſtaple: from that town, leaving Houghton-Regis on the right, and Tilſworth and Stanbridge on the left, it paſſes to Hockliffe, commonly called Hockley-in-the-hole: after which leaving Battleſden and Poteſgrave on the right, it quits the county about the 42 mile-ſtone. The great road to Liverpool branches off from the laſt-mentioned road near Hockliffe, and paſſing through Woburn quits the county about two miles on the other ſide of that town, and enters Buckinghamſhire.

The road from London to Higham-Ferrars and Kettering enters this county from Hertfordſhire about the 36 mile-ſtone; leaving Holwell and Stondon on the left, it proceeds to Shefford; thence to Bedford, without paſſing through any village, leaving Southill, Warden, Cardington, and Cople on the right, and Hawnes, Wilhamſted, and Elſtow, on the left. From Bedford it paſſes through Clapham, Milton-Erneſt, and Bletſoe; and leaving Sharnbrook, Souldrop, and Wimmington

on

on the left, quits the county about 11 miles beyond Bedford, and enters Northamptonſhire; its courſe through this county being about 26 miles.

In 1802, an act paſſed for making a new turnpike-road from Browne's lane in Great Staughton to the Bedford turnpike road in the pariſh of Lavendon in Buckinghamſhire. A conſiderable part of this road has been completed: it croſſes the laſt-mentioned road at Stokemill, and is intended to paſs through Sharnbrook, Odell, and Harold.

Another road, from London to Bedford, enters the county at the 27 mile-ſtone from London, and paſſes through Luton, over Luton downs to Barton-in-the-clay and Silſoe; from thence through Clophill, leaving Hawnes on the right, and through Wilhamſted and Elſtow to Bedford.

Beſides theſe principal roads, there is a very good turnpike road from Ampthill to Bedford; a turnpike road from Ampthill to Woburn, and from Bedford to Eaton-Socon, on either ſide of the Ouſe; the two roads joining at Barford bridge. The road from Baldock to Shefford enters this county near Stotfold, and paſſes through Arleſey, Henlow, and Clifton.

A turnpike road from Bedford to Olney, of late much out of repair, paſſes over Biddenham bridge through Bromham to Turvey, where it leaves the county.

The old road, which was formerly the route of the judges on their circuit from Bedford to Buckingham, and paſſed through Stagſden towards Newport-Pagnel, is become by diſuſe quite impaſſable for carriages.

A turnpike road from Bedford to Kimbolton was began ſome years ago, and nearly completed as far as Bolnhurſt, but is ſtill unfiniſhed.

It is remarkable that there is no carriage road from Dunſtaple to Luton, though both are conſiderable towns, and the diſtance only five miles.

The private roads in general are bad, excepting in the immediate vicinity of Bedford. In the neighbourhood of Cardington and Elſtow, the public have been much indebted for the improvement of the roads to the exertions of the late Mr. Whitbread.

## *Manufactures.*

THE principal manufacture of this county is thread-lace, formerly known by the name of bone-lace; a term now grown obſolete, but ſtill retained as ſynonymous in the ſtatute-books. Lace is made in every part of the county, excepting in a few villages, where it has been ſuperſeded by the ſtraw manufacture. The texture is not ſo fine as that of the lace made in ſome parts of Buckinghamſhire, nor are the earnings of the perſons employed in it ſo large; the average day's work of an adult

adult producing about a ſhilling only; and children earning from two-pence to five-pence. The trade is nevertheleſs flouriſhing, and the demand for the manufacture increaſing. Lace-making has been generally eſteemed particularly prejudicial to health, and perſons travelling through the counties where this manufacture prevails, have been ſtruck with the ſickly appearance of the women and children employed in it; which, excluſively of the pernicious effects attributed by ſome to the poſture of the manufacturers, might be ſufficiently accounted for by the ſedentary nature of their employment, and their habit of working together in ſmall crouded rooms.

The ſtraw manufacture prevails, and has of late much increaſed, in the neighbourhood of Dunſtaple and Toddington, and on the borders of Hertfordſhire. The employment is not neceſſarily ſo ſedentary as lace-making, for the ſtraw may be platted by perſons ſtanding or walking. The earnings, even of thoſe who make the coarſe plat, are higher than thoſe of the lace-makers, and the profit of making the fine plat is very conſiderable.

According to the returns made to parliament, of the population of this county in 1801, the number of perſons employed in agriculture was then 18,766; of thoſe employed in trade, manufactures, and handicrafts, 13,816.

## Antiquities.

### *Roman Remains.*

The Roman antiquities, which have been diſcovered in this county, are not numerous, or of much importance. They conſiſt chiefly of earthen veſſels, fragments of pottery, and coins. Several urns of various forms were dug up about twenty years ago, in the pariſh of Sandy, at a place called Cheſterfield, with many Roman coins, a ſmall mirror of metal, a fibula, and ſome fragments of the beautiful red pottery, ornamented with figures, commonly ſuppoſed to be the ancient Samian ware[c].

An *amphora* was found about the year 1798, in the peat on Maulden Moor, together with ſeveral urns of different forms and ſizes, containing bones and aſhes, and fragments of the red pottery enriched with figures and other ornaments; they lay about three feet below the ſurface of the moor, which is quite level.

Roman coins have been found alſo near Dunſtaple, and at Market-ſtreet.

[c] Archæolog. vol. VIII. p. 378.

*Roman*

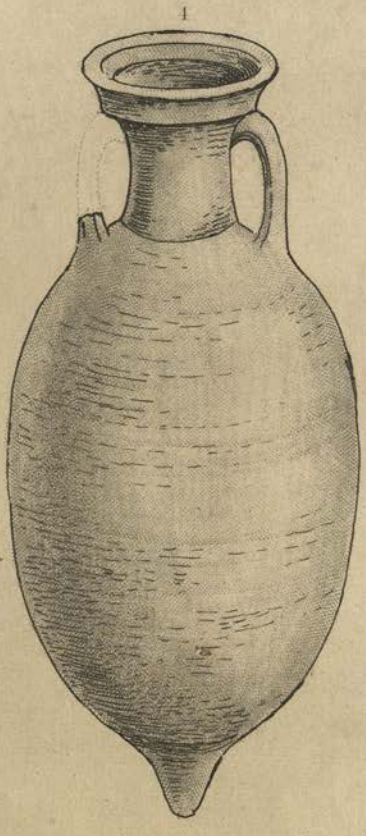

Fig. 1. 2. 3. ROMAN URNS found at Sandy Bedfordshire 4. An Amphora found on Wavendon heath. Bucks.

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*Roman Roads and Stations*[d].

"THIS county is croſſed by three roads of undoubted antiquity: the Ikening-ſtreet, the Watling-ſtreet, and a conſiderable Roman road, which came from Hertfordſhire to the ſtation near Sandy, and paſſed from thence to the Ermin-ſtreet, at Godmancheſter. The firſt of theſe differs in ſome reſpects from the others: it is by no means ſo direct in its line as Roman roads generally are; it ſhews no tendency (where it remains in its primitive ſtate) to paſs through Roman towns; nor are ſuch towns found on it at diſtances ſuited to travelling; it does not appear to have been ever raiſed or paved (the peculiar and infallible mark of the roads conſtructed by the Romans); and in many parts of its progreſs it divides itſelf into ſeveral branches, but all nearly parallel to its original courſe. Theſe reaſons, added to its name, which is Britiſh, give great countenance to the opinion that it was a track-way of the ancient inhabitants, before the conqueſt of the country by the Romans, in its courſe from the Iceni (the inhabitants of the eaſtern counties of England), from whom it took its name. After paſſing through Cambridgeſhire and a part of Hertfordſhire, it enters this county on its ſouth-weſterly borders, and croſſes the turnpike-road from Luton to Bedford, about the 16th mile ſtone; here a branch ſeems to bear to the right, through Great Bramingham and Houghton, to the Britiſh town of Maiden Bower; while the principal road continues on the ſide of the hills between Great Bramingham and Limberly, over Seagrave marſh, through the preſent town of Dunſtaple, where it croſſes the Watling-ſtreet, and ſoon after enters Buckinghamſhire. In the whole of its paſſage through this and the neighbouring counties, it continues on the top or ſides of the Chalk hills, and is known to every inhabitant by the name of the Ikeneld or Ikening-ſtreet.

A ſecond great military way paſſes through Bedfordſhire, under the name of the Watling-ſtreet; this alſo I have no doubt was another Britiſh track-way, traverſing the iſland from the Kentiſh coaſt to the country of the Guetheli; and it is a curious circumſtance, that an ancient track-way, under the very ſame name, tends from the eaſtern extremity of Scotland to the ſame country. Theſe Guetheli were the remains of the old Celtic inhabitants of England, who had been driven, by powerful and ſucceſſive invaders, to the extremity of Wales, and to the oppoſite ſhores of Ireland; and the communication with their country muſt have been of the utmoſt

[d] We have been favoured with an account of the Roman roads and ſtations in Bedfordſhire, and other counties, by the Lord Biſhop of Cloyne; who has taken great pains in the inveſtigation of this branch of antiquarian ſcience; and has viſited every part of the iſland for the purpoſe of local obſervation. He has been ſo obliging as to arrange his materials, and draw up a brief ſtatement of the reſult of his inquiries in each county for the uſe of this work.

importance in thoſe early times, as providing a paſſage for cattle and other articles of trade, from the extreme coaſts of the weſt, to the great marts for foreign merchants in the eaſtern ports of Britain. Thus the Watling-ſtreet, (Via Guethelinga, as Richard of Cirenceſter expreſsly calls it) would be the road of the Guetheli, as the Ikening-ſtreet was the road of the Iceni. Nor let ſuch perſons as have not much directed their minds to theſe ſtudies, be ſtartled at the idea of Britiſh ways. As the Britons, even in Cæſar's time, made uſe of chariots, it is not very probable they could have been without ſome ſort of roads, eſpecially as their country abounded with moraſſes and foreſts. Now, as the Romans would of courſe adopt ſuch parts of theſe roads as ſuited their own convenience, and as they carried on a trade of the ſame nature with this people, they made uſe of the whole of the road, from the coaſt of Kent to Wroxeter, with little variation. It is carried through well-known Roman towns at regular diſtances, bears ſteadily and directly to its point, and wherever it is deſerted by the modern turnpike-road, (as between Weedon, in Northamptonſhire, and Wall, in Staffordſhire,) ſhews ſtill a very elevated creſt; the original pavement is alſo found in many places, though ſometimes, where it has paſſed over a moſſy ſoil, ſuch pavement is beneath the preſent ſurface; it enters this county at the 33d mile-ſtone, in its way from St. Albans to Stony Stratford, keeping nearly in the track of the modern Iriſh road, and is not to be diſtinguiſhed from it; with this road alſo it leaves the county a little beyond the 42d mile-ſtone, having paſſed through one itinerary ſtation on it, which is generally agreed to have been at Dunſtaple. Roman coins have been found near this town; its preſent ſtreets are at right angles with each other, and coincide with the four points of the compaſs, corroborating proofs of its having been the work of that people. The name of *Forum Dianæ*, given to it by Richard, ſhews it to have been a conſiderable mart of trade, for which its ſituation, at the interſection of the Ikening and Watling-ſtreets, was particularly convenient; and it is indeed not improbable, that the ſcite was fixed upon by the Romans for their new town on this very account, in preference to that of the neighbouring Britiſh town at Maiden Bower.

But, though all our antiquaries (except Mr. Salmon, whoſe fancies are ſo extravagant as to make him at all times an incompetent guide) agree in the exiſtence of a ſtation at Dunſtaple, there is a difference of opinion reſpecting its name. As long as the world ſuffered itſelf to be miſled in theſe purſuits by a fondneſs for etymology, it left the ſafe and poſitive direction of the itineraries, to attend to the ingenious dreams of Baxter, who, finding that Maes Gwyn ſignified a white field, fixed here the ſtation of *Magiovintum*, becauſe it in ſome degree correſponded with the chalkineſs of the ſoil; but the numbers are all in Antoninus's 2d, 6th, and 8th iters ſo expreſs, that *Magiovintum* was 24 miles from *Verulam*; and the aſſertion is ſo ſtrongly confirmed by the firſt iter of Richard (in neither of which iters do the numbers

numbers permit us to ſuppoſe the ſtation to have been out of the road,) that I ſubſcribe to the opinion of the learned and accurate Horſley, and arrange with him the Roman ſtations in this part of the Watling-ſtreet in the following manner:

| Antonine's Names. | Richard's Names. | Modern Names. | Roman Miles. | Modern Miles. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Sulloniacæ. | Sulloniagis. | Brockley-hill. | 12. | 12. |
| 2. Verolamium. | Verolamium Municip. | St. Albans. | 9. | 9. |
| 3. Durocobrivæ. | Forum Dianæ. | Dunſtaple. | 12. | 12. |
| 4. Magiovintum. | Magiovinium. | Fenny Stratford. | 12. | 12. |
| 5. Lactodorum. | Lactodorum. | Towceſter. | 17. | 17. |

After obſerving this coincidence of numbers in the ancient and modern miles, we muſt either agree that the town called by Antonine *Durocobrivæ*, and by Richard *Forum Dianæ*, was at Dunſtaple; or adopt the opinion of Mr. Ward, that *Magiovintum* and *Durocobrivæ* have changed places by the miſtake of ſome tranſcriber.

The third ancient road that traverſed any part of Bedfordſhire was the Roman military way, which enters the county near Baldock, in the line of the preſent north road, with which it continues as far as *Stretton*, between the 44th and 45th mile-ſtone, where the modern turnpike-road (as is often the caſe) turns off to the left to paſs through Biggleſwade, while the Roman road preſerves its old ſtraight line directly forward to Cheſterfield. The Roman ſtation near the village of Sandy, on the hill above this village, is a large camp called Cæſar's camp (once poſſibly the Britiſh poſt) but the coins and every ſpecies of remains decidedly point out the Roman town in the valley beneath it; and, although the road is not travelled, or the name of the town mentioned in any of the iters, it is univerſally and juſtly allowed to be the Σαλῆναι of Ptolemy, and the *Salinæ* of Ravennas. From the N. E. part of the ſtation, near the banks of the Ivel, this road is continued through a ſmall valley, leaving the Britiſh camp before-mentioned on the left hand, and another hill which has been dug up for a ſtone quarry, on the right, ſtraight to a hedge-row which runs down through a piece of land to a ſmall copſe in the bottom, from whence it continues equally ſtraight, firſt as a boundary between Mr. Pym's land and Sandy-field, and then entering ſome incloſures, croſſes the road from Everton to Tempsford; then paſſes through a farm yard (leaving the houſe on the left) belonging to Governor Pownal; and through ſome more incloſures to a farm houſe, belonging to General Parker, which ſtands upon it; then through another incloſure to Tempsford marſh (or as it is called the cow-common); after paſſing which, it aſcends the hill cloſe by a barrow or tumulus, (almoſt the invariable attendant on Roman roads,) which is planted with trees, and known by the name of the Hen and Chickens; then ſtraight by the ſide of the hedge-row, leaving Hardwick on the right, and croſſing the road from Gamlingay, and that from Cambridge to St. Neot's, proceeds not far from

Toſeland, leaving the Offords on one ſide, and Papworth and Yelling on the other, to the village of Godmancheſter, allowed to be a Roman town, and ſuppoſed by many antiquaries to be the ſcite of the ancient *Durolipons*.

A very conſiderable military way has been alſo obſerved, coming from the Iſle of Ely to Cambridge, and viſibly tending to the borders of Bedfordſhire in a direct line for Sandy: this road, though in ſome parts obſcure, is ſuppoſed, with great probability, to have paſſed through Hatley and Potton to our poſt at Cheſterfield; and Dr. Maſon (our moſt intelligent tracer of Roman roads) has continued it on the weſtern ſide of the ſtation, in a line bearing towards Fenny Stratford; the country is ſo deep that no perſon, except he is well acquainted with the neighbourhood, and has an eye accuſtomed to theſe purſuits, would have any chance of following it with ſucceſs; but I am clearly of opinion, from the general bearing of this road, where it is ſtill viſible, that it formed a part of a great Roman way, leading from the eaſtern coaſt of England towards Wales, between the two Britiſh ways, the Ikening and Rykning; but of this I mean to ſpeak more at large when I come to treat of the courſe of the Akeman-ſtreet, in the counties of Bucks, Oxford, and Glouceſter.

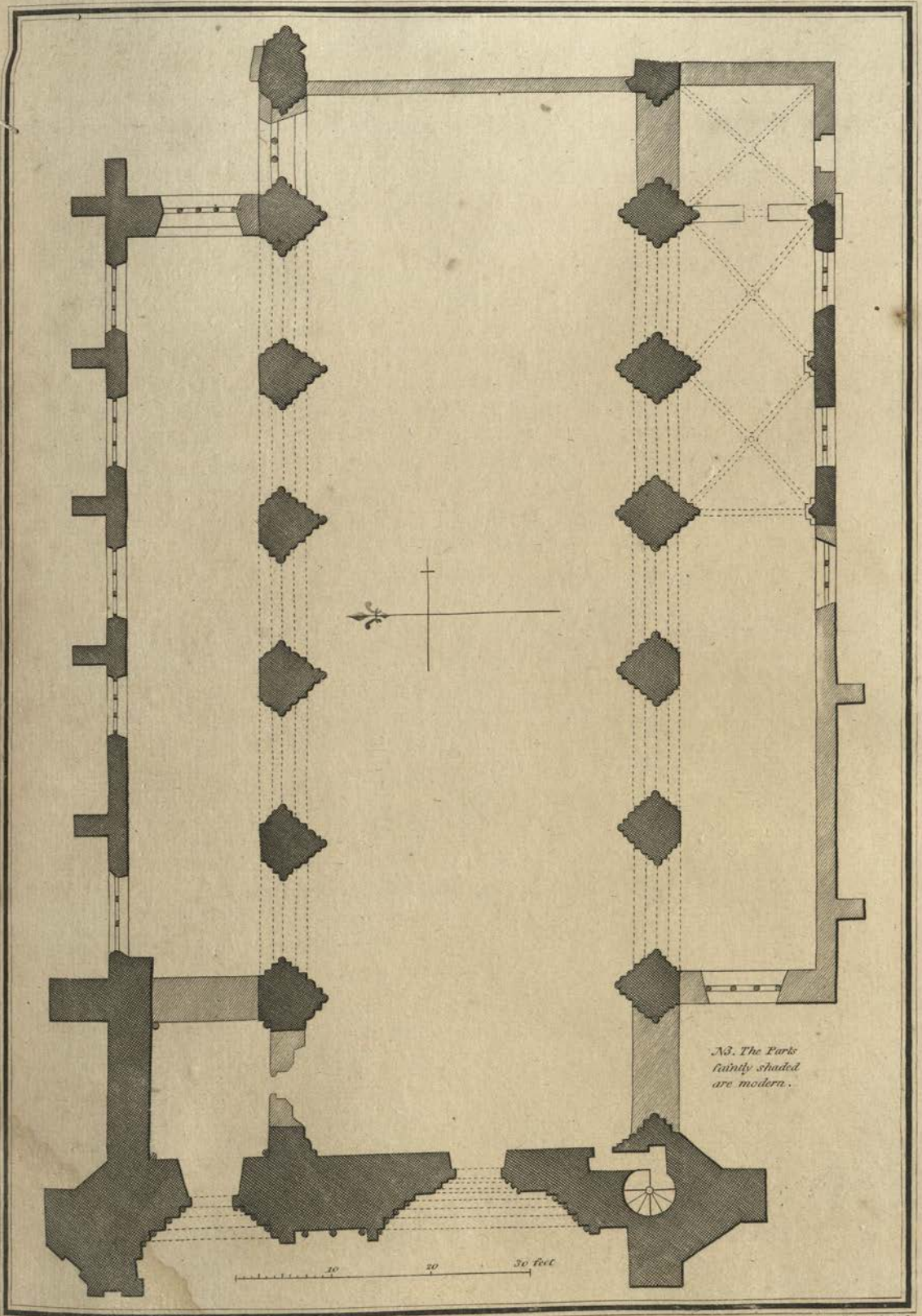
That there were connecting roads between the ſtations of Cheſterfield and Dunſtaple, Cheſterfield and Cheſterford in Eſſex, and Cheſterfield and Cheſter near Wellingborough, in the ſame manner as between Cheſterfield and Godmancheſter, there is little reaſon to doubt; although at preſent, from the conſtant cultivation of the whole face of the country, much of which alſo is old incloſure, and very deep land, the traces of them may be entirely defaced."

### *Church Architecture.*

The moſt ancient remains of eccleſiaſtical architecture in Bedfordſhire are to be ſeen in Elſtow church; the chancel of which has plain ſemicircular arches ſpringing from ſquare maſſive piers, unqueſtionably part of the original church of the monaſtery, which was founded in this place ſoon after the Norman conqueſt. The north door of this church has a ſemicircular arch, with zig-zag mouldings.

The pariſh church of Dunſtaple, which was formerly that of the convent, founded by Henry the Firſt in 1131, exhibits conſiderable remains of the original ſtructure. The columns are maſſive and cluſtered, with ſemicircular arches, and a ſingle zig-zag moulding: the eaſt end of the ſouth aiſle has the original groined roof of ſtone.

There are no other remains of this early architecture in Bedfordſhire of any importance. In Puddington church the arches of the nave are circular, and have zig-zag mouldings. Door-ways with circular arches, having the zig-zag and other mouldings




J. Byrne del.

Neele sc. Strand.

PLAN OF THE REMAINS OF THE PRIORY CHURCH AT DUNSTAPLE.

PART OF THE NAVE OF DUNSTAPLE CHURCH.

mouldings of Saxon architecture, occur in St. Peter's church at Bedford, and in the churches of Little Barford, Caddington, and Thurleigh; over the laſt of which are rude figures of Adam and Eve in bas relief.

Remains of the earlieſt ſtyle of Gothic architecture are to be ſeen in the nave of Elſtow church, ſome of the columns of which are large and octangular, with foliage round the capitals; the arches are pointed, and have plain deep mouldings; over the arches are ſmall lancet-ſhaped windows. The weſt door has been very elegant; the pillars on each ſide are ſlender, having capitals richly ornamented with foliage, now much mutilated.

The weſt front of Felmerſham church affords another example of this ſtyle of architecture, exhibiting a variety of pointed arches, ſlender columns with plain capitals and baſes, and long lancet-ſhaped windows. The other parts of the church are very plain, and appear, by the ſhape of the windows, to be of the ſame age.

The weſt end of Dunſtaple church exhibits alſo a rich diſplay of this early Gothic architecture, engrafted upon part of the original fabric, a ſemicircular arch of which appears in the great weſtern door-way, formerly enriched with a profuſion of ornaments, conſiſting of highly-relieved foliage and figures, executed in Totternhoe ſtone, the greater part of which has been deſtroyed or mutilated. Over this door are three tiers of pointed arches; the central one forms a gallery, leading to the tower. On the inſide of the church this ſtyle of architecture is ſeen only in a ſtone gallery leading to the tower, formerly open, but now hid by the organ-loft; it has lofty pointed arches, ſeparated by cluſtered pillars with capitals of foliage. The windows of this church are of a much later date.

Studham church, which was dedicated in 1220 (5th of Hen. 3.) retains its original architecture in the pillars of the nave, which are octagonal, with capitals variouſly ornamented.

The church of Eaton-Bray is nearly of the ſame age, and has both cluſtered and octagonal columns, the capitals of which are richly adorned with foliage.

Of the ſucceeding ſtyle of Gothic architecture, which prevailed during the fourteenth century, few examples exiſt in this county: Wimmington church, however, though ſmall, is an elegant ſpecimen of it, and appears never to have been altered. This edifice was rebuilt by John Curteys, mayor of the ſtaple at Calais, who died in 1391, and Albrena his wife. It has two octangular turrets at the eaſt, and a very elegant ſpire at the weſt end, ornamented with crockets, riſing from an embattled tower, which has tracery of quatrefoils, and other ornaments. The upper parts of the windows of this church are ramified in various forms; a ſtriking characteriſtic of the ſtyle of architecture which prevailed during the period above mentioned.

Several

Several of the Bedfordſhire churches are in the latter ſtyle of Gothic architecture, which prevailed during the fifteenth and the beginning of the ſixteenth century. Northill is large and handſome, having cluſtered columns and pointed arches: it was made collegiate in 1405, and probably erected at that time. Willington church is a handſome building in the ſame ſtyle. Marſton church is a light uniform ſtructure, with ſide-aiſles ſeparated from the nave by cluſtered columns. Eaton-Socon church is in the ſame ſtyle; the nave is eighty feet long and fifty-ſix wide. The windows of the nave were formerly richly ornamented with ſtained glaſs. The greater part of the church of Leighton-Buſard, which is a large handſome building, with ſide-aiſles and tranſepts, having a lofty plain ſpire in the centre, is in this latter ſtyle of Gothic architecture; as are alſo the churches of Odell, Biggleſwade, and St. Paul's at Bedford.

The ſouth end of the Wenlock chapel in Luton church, erected in the reign of Edward the IVth, has a lofty double arch opening to the chancel, reſting on cluſtered pillars, and enriched with Gothic tracery; as is alſo the whole of that end of the chapel.

### *Stained Glaſs.*

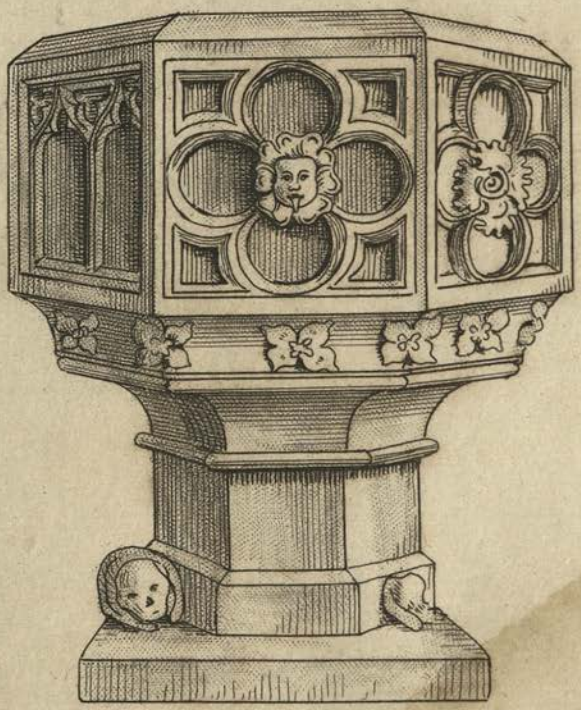
THE remains of ancient ſtained glaſs in the windows of Bedfordſhire churches are very few, and, for the moſt part, in a mutilated ſtate. The moſt perfect are to be ſeen in Eaton-Socon church, all the windows of which appear to have been originally filled with theſe ſplendid ornaments: only a few fragments remain in the windows on the ſouth ſide of the church, which appear to have been decorated with deſigns taken from the New Teſtament; but in the range of windows along the north aiſle, a conſiderable number are preſerved, the moſt entire of which repreſent deſigns taken from the legends of St. Nicholas and St. Etheldreda. Theſe remains have little to recommend them, except the brilliancy of their colours: by the form of ſome of the dreſſes, they ſeem to have been executed during the reign of Edward the IVth.

From ſome fragments in the ſouth tranſept of Luton church, that building alſo appears to have been richly ornamented with ſtained glaſs. In the windows of the Wenlock chapel in the ſame church, erected in the reign of Edward the IVth, there are ſufficient remains to ſhew the ſtyle of the original decorations, which were not of the richeſt kind, but conſiſted of ſingle figures and coats of arms on a ground of plain glaſs, charged with various ſmall devices, among which the broom-pod and a rudder, accompanied with the word *Hola*, are the moſt conſpicuous. The figure of St. George on foot, and the arms of John Lord Wenlock the founder, within the garter, are ſtill to be ſeen; but the portrait of this Lord, with a rhyming inſcription under it, formerly in the eaſt window, has been long ſince deſtroyed or removed.

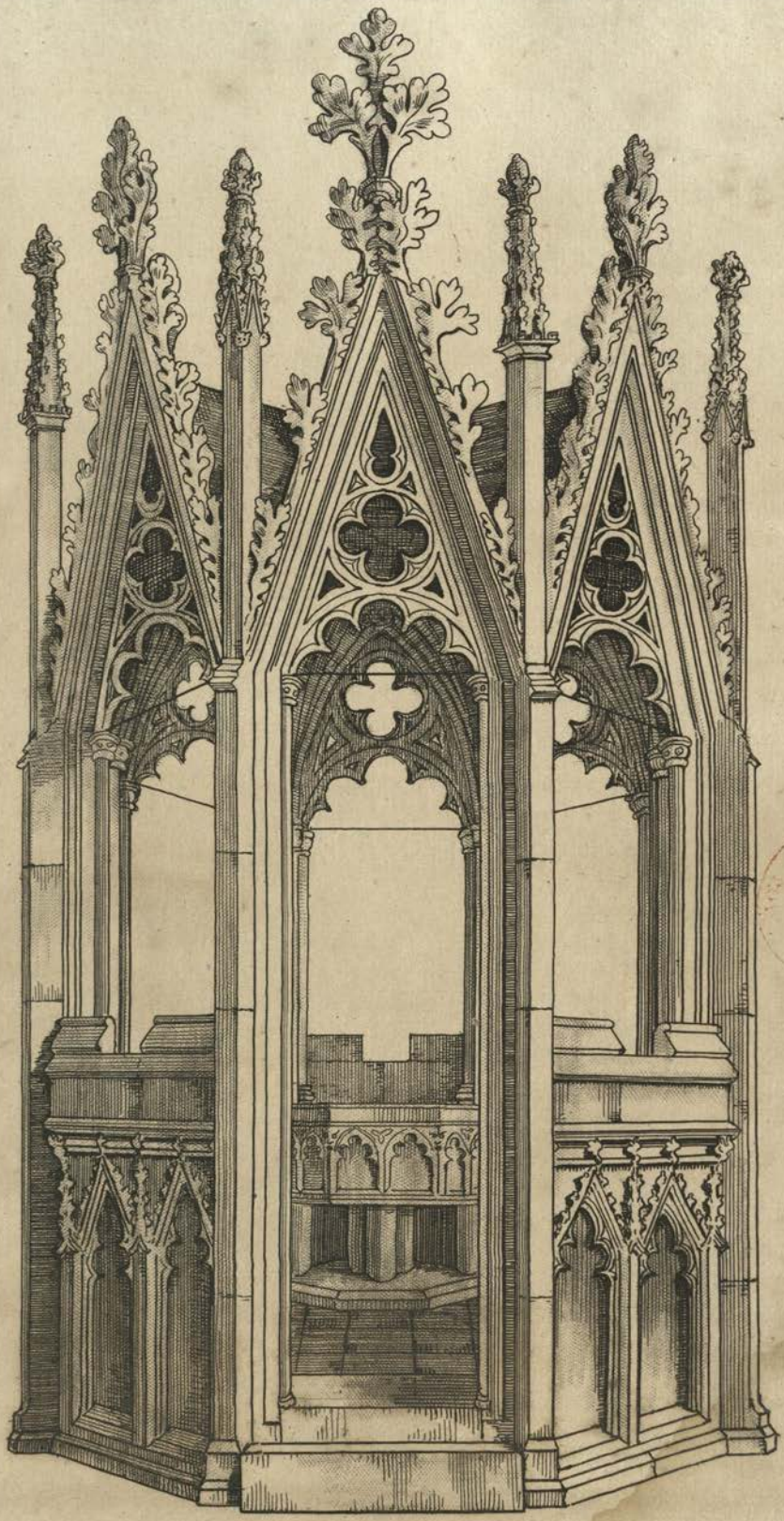
*Leighton-Busard.*

*Studham.*

*Puddington.*



*Elstow.*



removed. The upper compartments of the windows of this chapel are filled with ſmall figures of ſaints and angels.

In a north window of the nave of Warden church, among other remains, is the figure of an abbot praying under a turretted and embattled canopy. Single figures of ſaints, &c. occur in ſeveral other churches, but none of them ſufficiently remarkable to entitle them to particular notice.

### *Rood-Lofts, Screens, &c.*

In Tilbrook church is a rich Gothic ſcreen of wood, between the nave and chancel. At Marſton is a ſimilar ſcreen, richly ornamented with gilding and tracery; on the lower part are figures of ſaints and prophets under Gothic canopies, with inſcriptions on ſcrolls. In Felmerſham church is a light Gothic ſcreen, the central arch of which is ornamented with figures of angels, inſtead of crockets: over it is a rood-loft remaining entire.

Gothic niches, ſome of them richly ornamented with ſculpture and tracery, occur in ſeveral of the Bedfordſhire churches; the moſt remarkable are at Arleſey, Tingrith, Sundon, Pavingham, Flitwick, and Harlington.

### *Fonts.*

The greater part of the fonts in this county are either circular or octagonal, and without any ornament; the following, which are octagonal, and for the moſt part of Totternhoe ſtone, are variouſly decorated. Edworth font is enriched with quatrefoils, roſes, and ſhields; Barton with quatrefoils and roſes; Clifton has on each ſide two plain arches; Caddington has roſes, leopards' heads, &c.; Houghton-Conqueſt rich Gothic tabernacle work; Pertenhall, Kempſton, and Stagſden, ſtand on cluſters of pillars, on the ſides of the two laſt are figures under Gothic canopies; Oakley has Gothic tracery; Sundon ſtands on a circular ſhaft, and has two pointed arches on each ſide; Stretley has ornaments of foliage, and zig-zag mouldings on the pedeſtal; Stepingly has ſhields of arms; Shitlington has quatrefoils on the ſides; Sharnbrook and Wimmington have Gothic tracery; Arleſey has figures of Adam and Eve, the crucifixion, &c. in compartments, ſome of which appear never to have been finiſhed, and others have been much mutilated; Wilden has ſhields and quatrefoils; Luton ſtands on five pillars, and is ornamented with Gothic arches; this font is incloſed within a baptiſtry of ſtone at the weſt end of the nave, enriched with pinnacles, quatrefoils, and foliage, in the ſtyle of the fourteenth century.

Some of the circular fonts alſo are variouſly ornamented; Flitwick has the upper part ſcallopped; Houghton-Regis has various mouldings and foliage; Eaton Bray, Leighton-Buſard, and Holwell, are in the ſhape of a baſon ſtanding on five pillars,

ſome of which have capitals of foliage; Puddington has zig-zag mouldings; Studham is ornamented with dragons and foliage; Battleſden has croſſes patées, and fleurs de lys.

Meperſhall and Warden fonts are dodecagon; Gravenhurſt and Tingrith decagon, the latter on a cluſter of columns; Eaton-Socon is ſquare, ſtanding on four ſhort pillars, with tracery of interſecting arches on the ſide; Southill is ſquare, and has its ſides ornamented with pointed arches.

### *Stone Stalls and* Piſcinæ.

Many of the Bedfordſhire churches have ſtone ſtalls in the ſouth wall of the chancel, but few of them are remarkable for their ornaments. In Turvey and Luton churches, they are four in number; thoſe at Luton, which were erected by Abbot Wheatenhurſt, are ornamented with ſeveral coats of arms, and the Abbot's motto as on his tomb at St. Albans. Blunham and Caddington churches have three in each. Dunton, Higham-Gobion, Cranfield, Barton, Biggleſwade, Sandy, and Sutton churches, have alſo three ſtone ſtalls with a *piſcina* to each, and in ſome of them a double one; thoſe of Sutton are richly ornamented with trefoils, crockets, pinnacles, &c. Tempsford and Sharnbrook churches have two; Hockliffe and St. Mary's church in Bedford two of unequal height without canopies, the former has a *piſcina*; in Lower-Gravenhurſt and Wimmington churches are two with *piſcinæ*, thoſe of Wimmington are richly ornamented with crockets, &c. In Clifton church are two ſtone ſtalls with pointed arches, and a double *piſcina*, all richly ornamented with crockets and pinnacles; at Chalgrave is a *piſcina* with rich Gothic niches in the chancel, and another in the ſouth aiſle; a ſingle *piſcina* occurs in ſeveral other churches.

### *Ancient Tombs.*

In Salford church are two antient ſtone coffins, with croſſes and ſhields of arms on the lid. At Tilſworth is one for Adam de Tulleſworth, with a French inſcription in Gothic capitals. In Sutton church is a ſlab with a croſs florée; and another in Oakley church-yard. In St. Paul's church at Bedford is a ſlab, with a French inſcription in Gothic capitals, for Muriel Calt. At Lower Gravenhurſt is the tomb of Sir Robert de Bilhemore, founder of the church, with a ſimilar French inſcription.

In Salford church is the tomb of a cruſader, under a low arch richly ornamented; at the feet of the figure are two lions, and an angel at the head; on his ſhield is a plain chevron. In the ſouth chancel of Pertenhall church is the figure of a cruſader under a pointed arch ornamented with foliage. In the ſouth aiſle of Toddington church,

S. Lyrone delin et sculp.

church, among the tombs of the Cheneys, is one of the Peyvre family as a cruſader. At Chalgrave are two altar tombs, with the effigies of knights in armour, with mail gorgets, ſaid to be ſome of the Loring family; but the arms do not correſpond.

In the north wall of the chancel in Blunham and Little Staughton churches are altar tombs, under Gothic arches ornamented with quatrefoils. In Oakley church is an ancient tomb on the ſouth ſide of the nave, under a large trefoil arch, for one of the family of Reynes, ſuppoſed to have been the founder of that church. In the nave of Tilſworth church, under a Gothic arch with pinnacles, is a recumbent figure of an eccleſiaſtic on an altar tomb. At Luton, under the arch which divides the Wenlock chapel from the chancel, is an altar tomb, with the effigies of an eccleſiaſtic, ſuppoſed to be that of William de Wenlock, great uncle of Lord Wenlock.

At Yielden, againſt the ſouth wall of the nave, is a richly-ornamented tomb, without any figure.

In Wimmington church, under an arch on the ſouth ſide of the chancel, is an altar tomb, ornamented with Gothic tracery, on which is a black marble ſlab, with the figures on braſs of John Curteys, mayor of the ſtaple at Calais, who died in 1391, and his Lady, under Gothic canopies. In the ſame church are braſſes, with the figures of Sir Thomas Bromflet, cup-bearer to Henry the Vth, in armour, with a lion at his feet, and Margaret his wife.

In Elſtow church is a braſs plate, with the effigies of Elizabeth Harvey, the laſt abbeſs of Elſtow.

The moſt remarkable monuments of the ſixteenth century are thoſe of the Mordaunt family, at Turvey; Sir John Goſtwick, at Willington; Sir Michael Fiſher, at Clifton; Sir Edmund Anderſon, at Eyworth; and the mutilated remains of thoſe of the Cheneys, at Toddington. Thoſe of the Kent family at Flitton are, for the moſt part, of the following century; as is the Counteſs of Elgin's mauſoleum at Maulden.

### *Monaſtic Remains.*

THERE are very few monaſtic remains of any conſequence in Bedfordſhire, except thoſe of Dunſtaple Priory and Elſtow Abbey. Beſides the church at Dunſtaple, which has been already ſpoken of, part of the buildings of the monaſtery are to be ſeen in the houſe of Colonel Maddiſon, conſiſting of ſome rooms with groined roofs of ſtone.

At Elſtow, the conventual church remains as already deſcribed: and adjoining to it, at the ſouth-weſt corner, is a ſmall building, having a low groined roof reſting

on a ſingle pillar, with a plain capital and baſe, in the ſtyle of the earlieſt Gothic architecture.

There are ſome ſlight remains of the Grey-Friars at Bedford, conſiſting of a part of the cloiſters, and what is ſuppoſed to have been the refectory, now a barn.

Chickſand Priory, it is probable, was converted into a manſion-houſe ſoon after the diſſolution. It is now the ſeat of Sir George Oſborn. The eaſt, and part of the ſouth ſide of the cloiſters, remain entire, with rich Gothic windows. On the weſt ſide, even with the ground, is a range of rooms with ſtone roofs, vaulted and groined.

No part of the buildings of Woburn Abbey, or of the Priories of Newenham and Caldwell, now exiſt. The ſite of the two laſt may be traced. The refectory of Buſhmead Priory is converted into a ſtable and offices; that of Harold Priory, now a barn, has the original wooden roof. The ſmall remains of Warden Abbey conſiſt of a brick building, being only a part of what is repreſented in Buck's View.

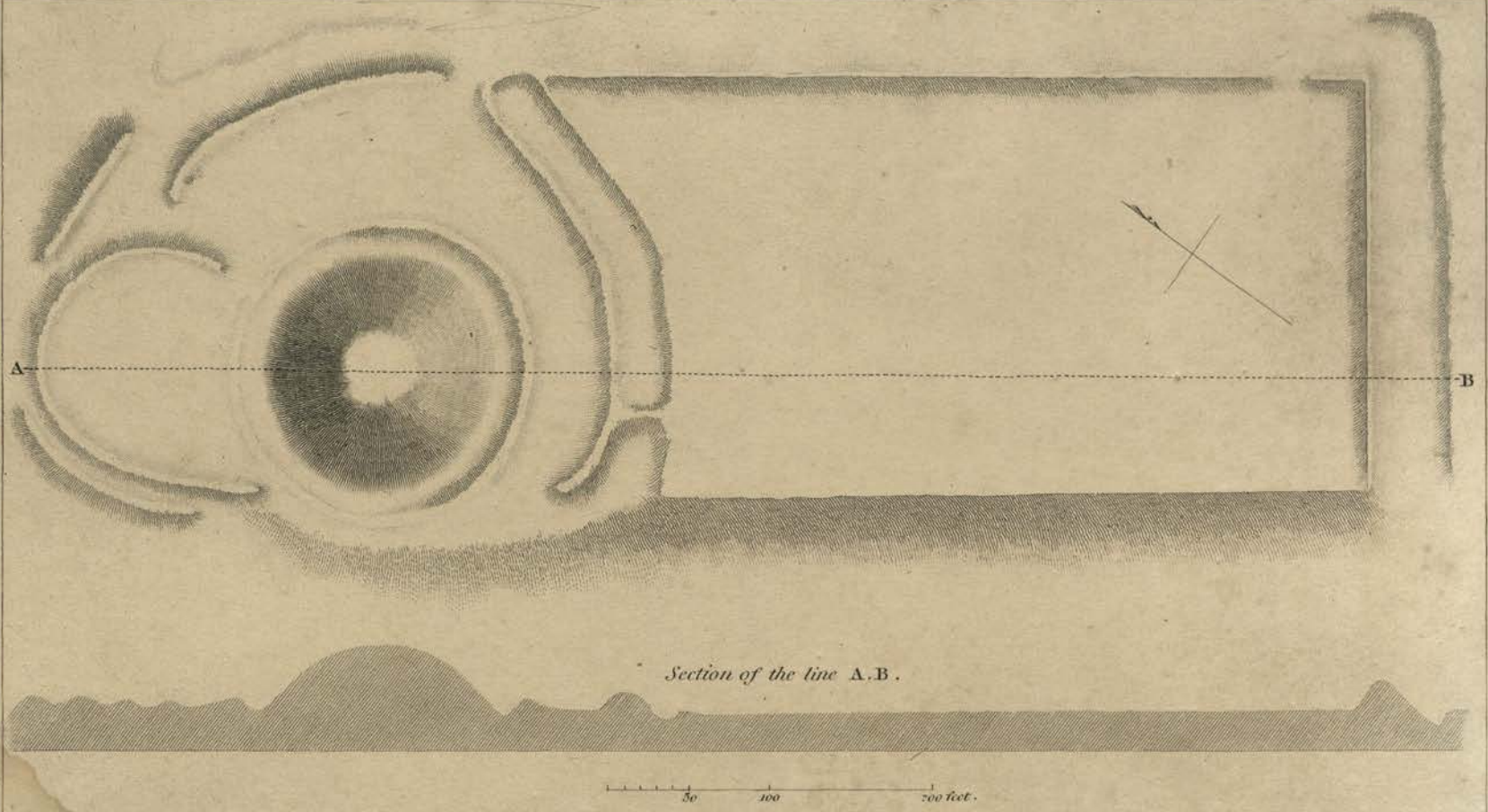
### *Sites of Caſtles and Caſtellated Manſions.*

All the caſtles in this county have been demoliſhed; but conſiderable earth-works remain on their ſites. The only traces now exiſting of Bedford Caſtle, formerly the chief ſeat of the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford, conſiſt of a large circular mount, with a flat ſpace on the top, now uſed as a bowling-green, and ſome earth-works adjoining.

Extenſive veſtiges of Eaton-Socon Caſtle, which belonged to a younger branch of the Beauchamps of Bedford, are to be ſeen in a field near the church. In the centre is a high mount, ſurrounded by a moat, communicating with the river: about twenty-four yards beyond the moat is a vallum ſurrounding the whole, except on the river ſide.

The traces of Yielden Caſtle, the ſeat of the ancient barons of Trally, are extenſive. The principal works form a ſquare of about eighty paces; in the centre is a large mount called the Caſtle-hill, with a vallum on the weſt ſide of it, including a ſpace 90 paces long and 45 wide; round theſe works is a moat, in ſome parts of which the water ſtill remains; and beyond the moat appear traces of walls for a conſiderable ſpace.

The elevated keeps of Riſinghoe and Cainhoe Caſtles remain, with extenſive earth-works. At Bletſoe and Ridgmont are alſo traces of caſtles. In a field near Toddington church is the keep of a caſtle, and ſome ſlight earth-works, called Conger-hill. At Mepperſhall, Puddington, and Thurleigh, are veſtiges of caſtles, or at leaſt caſtellated manſions. At Sutton is a moated ſite, in the park, commonly called




PLAN OF TOTERNHOE CASTLE BEDFORDSHIRE.

S. Lysons del.t

Neele sc. Strand.

called John of Gaunt's Caſtle. At Odell, a manſion-houſe, now the ſeat of Thomas Alſton Eſq. has been erected on the ſite of the Caſtle, the ancient ſeat of the Barons Wahull, which was a ruin in Leland's time. At Arleſey are conſiderable earth-works, called Etonbury.

*Camps and Earth-works.*

THE moſt remarkable object of this kind in Bedfordſhire is called Toternhoe Caſtle; a work of great ſtrength, ſituated on the brow of a hill about two miles north-weſt of Dunſtaple. It conſiſts of a lofty circular mount, with a ſlight vallum round its baſe, and a larger one of an irregular form at ſome diſtance from it. On the ſouth-eaſt ſide is a camp in the form of a parallelogram, about 500 feet long and 250 in width, three ſides of which are ſecured by a vallum and ditch, very entire on the ſouth-eaſt ſide; the ſouth-weſt ſide, being on the edge of a precipice, has no vallum. It is probable that the irregular fortreſs firſt mentioned was Britiſh, and that the adjoining works were added by the Romans, whoſe ſtation of Durocobrivæ is ſuppoſed to have been at Dunſtaple. The view from the mount is very extenſive, commanding a long range of the Chiltern Hills, the vale of Ayleſbury, and the central part of Bedfordſhire.

A little more than a mile from Dunſtaple is a circular earth-work, about 2500 feet in circumference, commonly called Maiden-Bower, conſiſting of a ſingle vallum and ditch.

On a hill near Sandy is a camp of large dimenſions, and of an irregular oblong form, overlooking the ſite of a Roman ſtation, now called Cheſterfield. This camp was unqueſtionably occupied by the Romans, if not originally made by them.

Near Leighton-Buſard on the heath is an incloſure nearly circular, containing ſeveral fields ſurrounded by a ditch, which in many parts is deep, and has a good deal the appearance of having been a camp.

About four miles from Bedford, adjoining the road which leads to Eaton-Socon, on the north ſide of the river, is a circular vallum of conſiderable height, with openings on the north and ſouth ſides. The area is 112 feet in diameter.

The ſpot near Buſhmead, which is called a camp in the late maps of the county, is merely the ſite of a moated manſion.

## PAROCHIAL TOPOGRAPHY,

(ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED.)

VERY little has been done towards elucidating the topography of this county. In the Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica are hiſtorical accounts of the pariſhes of Luton, Dunſtaple, Wimmington, and Odell, and ſome anſwers to queries reſpecting Puddington. The late Rev. Mr. Cooper, who wrote the accounts of Wimmington and Odell, had made collections for ſeveral other pariſhes in the county; but they conſiſt chiefly of church notes and compilations from Dugdale's Monaſticon, and other printed works. They are now the property of the Rev. Mr. Marſh, Vicar of Steventon, who has been many years collecting materials for a natural hiſtory of the county. The following brief account of the ſeveral pariſhes is collected from records in the public offices, aided by a variety of information obligingly communicated by the owners of landed property or their agents, and by the clergy. Every pariſh has been perſonally viſited by the Editors, who deſire to return their acknowledgments to all who have favoured them with their aſſiſtance, particularly to the Earl of Upper-Oſſory, Dr. Yeats, and Mr. Theed Pearſe of Bedford, the Rev. Hugh Wade Gery of Buſhmead, Dr. Abbot, and Mr. Marſh. The diſtances of each village from the neighbouring towns are taken from Jeffries's map, made by actual ſurvey.

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AMPTHILL, anciently *Ametulle*, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke, and deanery of Flitt, is a ſmall neat town, pleaſantly ſituated, but in a ſandy ſoil. Its earlieſt charter for a market bears date 1219 [f]; it was then held, as it ſtill is, on Thurſdays. It was confirmed by a ſubſequent charter in 1242 [g], with the grant of a fair on the feſtival of St. Mary Magdalen. The only fair now held is on the 4th of May. The market is not conſiderable. The town has been much improved by the removal of ſome old houſes which ſtood very incommodiouſly in the market-place, where there is now a pump with an obeliſk, erected by the Earl of Oſſory in 1785. There is no town-hall or other public building; the court of the honour is held in a mean old room called the Moot-houſe, which, although ſmall, may have been uſed occaſionally as a court of

[f] Fin. Rot. 3 Hen. III. [g] C. 26 Hen. III.



juſtice.

juſtice. The aſſizes are ſaid to have been held there in 1684, having been removed thither, as it is ſaid, through the intereſt of the Earl of Ayleſbury: the Epiphany ſeſſions were certainly held there that year [h]. The number of inhabited houſes within the pariſh of Ampthill in 1801, according to the returns made under the Population Act, was 237; of inhabitants 1234. The manor of Ampthill, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, belonged to the baronial family of Albini, from whom it paſſed by female heirs to the St. Amands, and Beauchamps [i]. William Beauchamp, who in right of his wife enjoyed the barony of St. Amand, conveyed Ampthill, in 1441, to Sir John Cornwall [k], a diſtinguiſhed military character in the reigns of Henry IV. and Henry V. By his gallant behaviour in a tournament at York, in 1401, he won the heart of Elizabeth, the King's ſiſter, then the widow of John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon and Duke of Exeter. In the glorious battle of Agincourt he was one of the choſen officers who had the poſt of honour with the Duke of York in the van [l]. Leland ſays, that he "builded the "caſtelle of Antehill of ſuch ſpoils as it is ſaid he won in France." It was not till 1432 that he was created Lord Fanhope, and in 1433 Baron of Milbrook. The account which the learned antiquary above mentioned gives from hearſay, of the manner in which Lord Fanhope's lands came to the crown, and of their being granted by Edward IV. to Lord Grey of Ruthin, as a reward for the part which he took in the battle of Northampton, appears to be wholly erroneous, as Lord Fanhope died in peace ſeventeen years before that battle, at Ampthill caſtle [m], whither he had retired after the death of his only legitimate ſon, who was ſlain in France. In 1453, ten years after the death of Lord Fanhope, Henry Duke of Exeter, his wife's ſon, entered into a bond of 6000 marks to abide by the arbitration of Sir Thomas Bourchier reſpecting the manor of Ampthill and other eſtates [n]. What became of it immediately after, is uncertain. The Duke of Exeter died in extreme poverty. The manor is next to be traced to the noble family of Grey, but whether they became poſſeſſed of it by grant or purchaſe does not appear. Reginald Grey, Earl of Kent, was poſſeſſed of it in 1524. Not long after this it came into the King's hands, probably by an exchange, and was made an honour by act of Parliament. Queen Catherine of Arragon reſided at Ampthill whilſt the buſineſs of the divorce was pending, and was cited thence to attend the commiſſioners at Dunſtaple, but refuſed to obey their ſummons [o]. No accounts of Ampthill Caſtle, or its inhabitants, are to be diſcovered during the ſubſequent reigns; and it is moſt probable that it

[h] Biograph. Brit. laſt Edition, vol. i. p. 607, *notes*. [i] Bedfordſhire Eſcheats, and Dugdale's Baronage.
[k] Clauſ. Rot. 19 Hen. VI. [l] Dugdale. [m] Eſcheat, 22 Hen. VI. [n] Cl. 31 Hen. IV.
[o] Holinſhed.

was

was ſuffered to go to decay. The ſurvey made by order of Parliament in 1649, ſpeaks of it as having been long ago totally demoliſhed. When Fuller, in his "Worthies," mentions Ampthill as one of thoſe three which carried away the credit among the houſes of the nobility in Bedfordſhire, he meant Houghton Park, then (1662) the ſeat of the Earl of Aylesbury, and ſituated partly in Ampthill pariſh. We are told by Oſborn, in his Memoirs of King James's reign, that the honour of Ampthill, no ſmall preſent to be made at one time, as the writer obſerves, was given by that monarch to the Earl of Kelly. It ſoon reverted to the crown. In 1612, Thomas Lord Fenton, and Elizabeth his wife, reſigned the office of high ſteward of the honour of Ampthill to the king. The following year the cuſtody of the great park was granted to Lord Bruce, whoſe family became leſſees of the honour [r]. The leaſe continued in that noble family till 1738, when it was purchaſed by the Duke of Bedford. In the 17th century the Nicolls's were for many years leſſees of Ampthill Great Park, under the Bruce's, who reſerved to themſelves the office of maſter of the game. The Nicolls's reſided at the Great Lodge, or capital Manſion, as it is called in the ſurvey of 1649. After the reſtoration, Ampthill Great Park was granted by Charles II. to Mr. John Aſhburnham, as a reward for the faithful ſervices which he had rendered to that monarch and his father [s]. In 1720 it was purchaſed of the Aſhburnham family by Lord Viſcount Fitzwilliam, who ſold it in 1736 to Lady Gowran, grandmother of the preſent noble owner, John, Earl of Upper Oſſory, who, in 1800, became poſſeſſed of the leaſe of the honour of Ampthill, by exchange with the late Duke of Bedford. The ſite of Ampthill caſtle, which Leland deſcribes as "ſtanding ſtately on a hill, with "a four or five faire towers of ſtone in the inner warde, beſides the baſſe courte," has been denoted by a Gothic column, erected in 1770, by the Earl of Oſſory. It is inſcribed with the following lines, from the pen of the late Earl of Orford:

"In days of yore here Ampthill's towers were ſeen,
The mournful refuge of an injur'd queen;
Here flow'd her pure but unavailing tears,
Here blinded zeal ſuſtain'd her ſinking years:
Yet Freedom hence her radiant banner wav'd,
And love aveng'd a realm by prieſts enſlav'd.
From Catherine's wrongs a nation's bliſs was ſpread,
And Luther's light from Henry's lawleſs bed."

The preſent manſion at Ampthill is ſituated near the foot of the hill, yet ſufficiently elevated to command a proſpect over the vale of Bedford, broken by the fine trees in the park. It was built about the year 1694, by the firſt Lord Aſhburnham. The

[r] Duke of Bedford's Records. [s] Lord Oſſory's Papers.

Earl

Earl of Oſſory has a ſmall collection of pictures at Ampthill; amongſt which may be noticed an original portrait of Sterne, by Sir Joſhua Reynolds. This manſion felt very ſeverely the effects of the dreadful ſtorm on the 19th of Auguſt 1800: not leſs than 700 panes of glaſs were broken in the weſt front by the hail-ſtones; which, by perſons of the ſtricteſt veracity, were affirmed to have been ſeven inches in circumference, and of a flat form. The town of Ampthill, and many of the neighbouring villages, were in an equal degree ſufferers; ſcarcely a window, which was expoſed to the ſtorm, eſcaped being broken.

The grounds of Ampthill, which are diſpoſed on a ſteep natural bank behind the houſe, afford ſome very beautiful ſcenery. A ſurvey of Ampthill Park, taken by order of Parliament in 1653, deſcribes 287 trees as being hollow, and too much decayed for the uſe of the navy. Theſe oaks, thus ſaved from the axe by the Commiſſioners' report, remain to the preſent day; and, by their pictureſque appearance, contribute much to the ornament of the place.

The church of Ampthill contains little that is remarkable. The figures of Lord Fanhope and the Dutcheſs of Exeter, mentioned by Sandford, have been removed from the eaſt window of the aiſle. The only monument of note is that of Robert Nicolls, of Ampthill Park, Governor of Long Iſland, who, being in attendance on the Duke of York, was ſlain on board his ſhip in 1672. A cannon-ball, ſaid to have been that which occaſioned his death, is inlaid in the marble within the pediment; and on the moulding is this inſcription:

"Inſtrumentum mortis et immortalitatis."

The benefice is a rectory in the patronage of Lord Oſſory.

In the year 1654, the name of Colonel Okey, the regicide, occurs in the pariſh regiſter, atteſting the celebration of marriages as a juſtice of peace. About that time he purchaſed the honour of Ampthill, as part of the confiſcated property of the crown[r], and reſided, it is probable, at the Park. The ſignature of Edmund Wingate the arithmetician, occurs alſo as a juſtice the ſame year. He reſided at Woodend, in Harlington.

About a mile from the town of Ampthill is a hoſpital, founded in 1690, by Mr. John Croſs, for twelve poor men and a reader, and for four poor women. The reader has fifteen pounds per annum, the others ten pounds. They muſt be unmarried. The Vice Chancellor of the Univerſity of Oxford, and the Biſhop of that Dioceſe, are viſitors.

Arlesey, anciently Alricheſeye or Alnerichſeye, about three miles ſouth eaſt of Shefford, in the hundred of Clifton, was formerly a market town. Its market, which was on Wedneſday, is mentioned in the record of Doomſday. The tolls were

[r] Browne Willis's Papers in the Bodleian Library.

then

then valued at 10s. per annum. It was confirmed in 1270 to Stephen Edworth, then lord of the manor, with a fair to be held at the feſtival of St. Peter and St. Paul. Both the market and fair have been long diſuſed.

In the reign of Edward III. the De la Poles had the manor [s]. In the reign of Henry VIII. the manor of Arleſey, alias Etonbury, was held by the Tanfields under the Earl of Shrewſbury [t]. It is now the property of Richard Edwards, a minor, in whoſe family it has been for many years. It is probable that the ancient entrenchment near the road to Baldock, called Etonbury, was the original ſite of this manor. It appears to have been a place of conſiderable ſtrength.

In the church are monuments of Sir Samuel Browne, a barriſter, who died in 1665, and ſeveral of the families of Vigerous and Edwards. Richard Edwards, who died in 1691, is called in his epitaph the laſt grand reader of the temple. The great tithes of this pariſh, which were appropriated to the Abbey of Waltham, were the property of the late Mrs. Schutz, daughter and heir of Dr. Browne, in whoſe family they have been veſted for many years. Michael Angelo Taylor eſq. is patron of the vicarage, which is united to Aſtwick, and lies in the deanery of Shefford.

Aspley Guise, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Flitt, about two miles north of Woburn, received its additional name from the ancient family of Gyſe, or Guiſe. It had formerly a market; a charter for which was granted to Anſelm de Gyſe in 1267 [u], with a fair at St. Botolph's tide. The market, which was on Fridays, has been long diſuſed, but it continues to be a populous village, and is very pleaſantly ſituated.

The manor was anciently veſted in the Beauchamps, as parcel of the Barony of Bedford. Simon de Beauchamp ſurrendered it by way of a compoſition to Guy de St. Walery, who had laid claim to his whole barony [w]. Reginald de St. Walery gave it to Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, and Grand Juſticiar of England, whoſe widow Margaret, daughter of the King of Scots, died ſeiſed of it, as her dower, in 1259 [x]. After this, Aſpley became the property and chief ſeat of the Gyſes or Guiſes, anceſtors of the Glouceſterſhire family of that name. Anſelm de Gyſe had this manor in marriage with a daughter of Hubert de Burgh above-mentioned. John de Gyſe was one of the knights of this ſhire in 1328. In 1540 John Guiſe eſq. gave the manor of Aſpley to king Henry VIII. in exchange for lands in Glouceſterſhire [y]. It is probable that the king granted it to Sir Ralph Sadler [z], one of his chief favourites, whoſe deſcendants are ſtill poſſeſſed of it. Edwin Sadleir, of Aſpley, was created a baronet in 1661. Sir Edwin Sadleir, his ſon, the laſt baronet, died in 1719, bequeathing

[s] Cl. Rot. [t] Eſcheats. [u] Cart. 51 Hen. III. [w] Dugdale's Baronage. [x] Eſcheats.
[y] Records in the Augmentation Office. [z] So the name has of late been ſpelt.

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the manor of Aſpley to his kinſman George Sadleir eſq. from whom it has deſcended to the preſent proprietor Richard Vernon Sadleir eſq.

In the church is the effigies in braſs of one of the Guiſe family in armour, a tomb of Sir Edwin Sadleir, the laſt baronet of that name, and an ancient altar tomb, with the effigies of a man in chain armour. The advowſon of the rectory was given to the priory of Newenham by Simon de Beauchamp the founder. It has been in the Duke of Bedford's family ſince the year 1752. An Act of Parliament for incloſing this pariſh was paſſed in 1759, and a ſecond Act in 1793. The rectory was conſolidated with that of Huſborn Crawley in 1796.

ASTWICK, in the hundred of Biggleſwade, and the deanery of Shefford, is a ſmall village on the borders of Hertfordſhire, about five miles from Shefford, a little north of the road to Baldock. The manor was formerly in the Beauchamps and Nevills [z], of late years in the family of Browne, and now the property of Michael Angelo Taylor eſq. In the church are memorials of the family of Cockayne. The benefice is a rectory united to Arleſey, and is in the patronage of Mr. Taylor. The advowſon was formerly in the priory of Chickſand. In the founder's charter it is called the *Chapel* of Eſtwick.

GREAT BARFORD gives name to a hundred, and is in the deanery of Eaton. It is a village about ſix miles N. E. of Bedford, on the road to St. Neots. The principal manor was formerly in the St. Johns [a]. It is now the property of John Franklyn eſq. in whoſe family it has been for ſeveral generations. Creakers, in this pariſh, was in the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries a ſeat and manor of the Fitzjeffreys, one of whom has a memorial in the church. It is now the property of Mr. Pedley, whoſe father purchaſed it of the Halſeys. The old manſion, of which a ſmall part only remains, ſtood within a moated ſite. The manor of Netherbury, which belonged to the Mordaunts, is now the property of Charles James Metcalf, a minor, in whoſe family it has been for a conſiderable time. The manor of Birchfield, called anciently Brytvills, Burtfield, or Burdeſleys, was formerly in the Spencer family [b], and is now the property of J. Polhill eſq. In 1481 the Fitzjeffreys had a moiety of this manor [c]. The benefice is a vicarage in the patronage of the Maſter and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, to whom the great tithes are appropriated. Mr. Franklyn is leſſee under the college. At this place is a bridge over the Ouſe, built in the early part of the 15th century [d].

[z] Eſcheats, Ric. II. [a] Collins's Peerage. [b] Cole's Eſcheats. [c] Eſcheats in the Tower.
[d] See the Charter of 25 Hen. VI. to the Town of Bedford.

LITTLE BARFORD, or BERKFORD, in the hundred of Biggleſwade and deanery of Shefford, is a ſmall village on the borders of Huntingdonſhire, about two miles and a half from St. Neots. The manor has of late years been in the families of Lee and Browne, and is now the property of Mr. Williamſon of Baldock, who has alſo the advowſon of the rectory. The pariſh was incloſed by agreement previouſly to 1778, when an Act of Parliament was obtained to confirm it. An allotment of land was aſſigned in lieu of tithes to the rector. Nicholas Rowe, the dramatic poet, was born at this place in 1661.

BARTON, ſometimes called *Barton in the Clay*, from its ſituation at the commencement of the clayey ſoil under Barton hill, is in the hundred of Flitt and deanery of Dunſtaple, about ſeven miles from Luton, on the road to Bedford. The manor of Barton was given to the Monks of Ramſey by their firſt Abbot Eadnothus, afterwards Biſhop of Dorcheſter [c]. After the reformation it paſſed through various hands, having never continued long in the ſame family. It is now the property of Edward Willes eſq. whoſe father, the Biſhop of Bath and Wells, purchaſed it of Mr. Jenkins of Harpenden. The rectory is in the gift of the crown.

BATTLESDEN, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Dunſtaple, is a ſmall village about three miles from Woburn, between the two great roads. In the 13th and 14th centuries the manor was in the family of Firmband or Fremband [f], who twice repreſented the county in parliament in the reign of Edward III. It was afterwards in the Chetwodes. About the reign of Queen Elizabeth it became the property of the Duncombes, by the marriage of William Duncombe eſq. with Ellen, daughter and heir of William Saunders eſq. of Potſgrave.

It was to one of this family, Sir Saunders Duncombe, a gentleman penſioner to King James and Charles I. that we are indebted for the accommodation of ſedans or cloſe chairs; the uſe of which was firſt introduced by him in this country in the year 1634, when he procured a patent, which veſted in him and his heirs the ſole right of carrying perſons "up and down in them" for a certain term. It is probable that Sir Saunders, who was a great traveller, had ſeen them at Sedan, where Dr. Johnſon ſuppoſes that they were firſt made. It is remarkable, that Capt. Bayley firſt introduced the uſe of hackney coaches in London the ſame year [g].

In 1706 [h] the manor of Battleſden was purchaſed by Allen Bathurſt eſq. a diſtinguiſhed political character during the reigns of queen Anne and George I.; by

[c] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [f] Eſcheats in the Tower. [g] See the Strafford Papers, vol. i. p. 336.
[h] Sir G. P. Turner's Papers.

the

the former of whom he was in 1711 created Baron Bathurſt of Battleſden, which continued for ſome years to be the country-ſeat of that nobleman, and the occaſional reſort of the celebrated conſtellation of wits, of whom he was the patron and the friend. In 1724 Lord Bathurſt ſold Battleſden to Sir Gregory Page, great uncle of the preſent proprietor, Sir Gregory Page Turner bart. In the church are monuments of the Duncombe family from 1603 to 1688. Sir Gregory Page Turner is patron of the rectory.

BEDFORD, the county town, is ſituated on the river Ouſe, which divides it into two parts, and is fifty miles from London.

It is generally ſuppoſed that Bedford was the *Bedicanford* of the Saxon Chronicle, where the battle was fought between Cuthwulf and the Britons in 572; and it is ſaid to have been the burial-place of Offa king of the Mercians. Matthew Paris ſpeaks of the chapel in which he was interred, as having been dilapidated and carried away by the floods. Edward the Elder, as Camden informs us on the authority of Hoveden, repaired Bedford, which had been ruined in the Daniſh wars, and built a new town on the ſouth ſide of the river, called Mikeſgate; but the author of the Saxon Chronicle, and other writers, ſpeak of the building on the other ſide of the river as a fortreſs only, or citadel. Authors vary conſiderably alſo as to the date of this building. Bromton makes it 907, the Saxon Chronicle 919. The Daniſh army was repulſed by the townſmen of Bedford in 921 [i]; in 1010 they were more ſucceſsful, and burned the town [k].

The record of Doomſday ſpeaks of the town of Bedford as being taxed as half a hundred both for ſoldiers and ſhipping. Remigius, biſhop of Lincoln, is ſaid to have taken it away from the church of St. Paul, and to have retained it unjuſtly in his own hands.

King William Rufus gave the Barony of Bedford to Pain de Beauchamp [l], who built a ſtrong caſtle adjoining the town. Bedford caſtle ſuſtained a ſiege againſt King Stephen and his army in 1137; but hiſtorians differ very much in their accounts, both as to the event of the ſiege, and who were the defenders. Dugdale, quoting ancient authorities, ſays, that Milo de Beauchamp and his brothers, hearing that the king had beſtowed their ſiſter in marriage, together with the whole Barony of Bedford, which had belonged to Simon de Beauchamp their father, unto Hugh Pauper, brother to the Earl of Leiceſter, garriſoned the caſtle of Bedford, then a fort of great ſtrength environed with a mighty rampire of earth, and a high wall, within which was an impregnable tower; ſo that the king, *not being able to get it by aſſault*, brought his army before it, and, after a long and hard ſiege, obtained it by

[i] Sax. Chron. [k] Ibid. [l] Dugdale's Baronage.

 ſurrender,

ſurrender, through the mediation of his brother Henry de Blois biſhop of Wincheſter, Milo de Beauchamp and his ſoldiers marching out upon honourable terms [m]. Camden, without entering into particulars, merely mentions that Stephen was the firſt who took this caſtle with great ſlaughter. Holinſhed informs us, that during the wars between Stephen and David king of Scotland, Bedford, which had been given to David's ſon Henry, as appertaining to the earldom of Huntingdon, was garriſoned by the Scots; and that after being beſieged for thirty days together, by Stephen, who every day gave an aſſault or alarm, it was at length won by him *by pure force and ſtrength*. The circumſtance, of Bedford having been thus for a time annexed to the earldom of Huntingdon, is confirmed by a record of parliament, by which it appears that the abbeſs of Elſtow, in 1327, preferred a petition, claiming the third penny in the town of Bedford, under a grant of Malcolm king of Scotland and earl of Huntingdon. The burgeſſes of Bedford, in reply, affirmed that Malcolm never had the lordſhip of the town [n]. It is moſt probable, that before his time it had been reſtored to the Beauchamps. In 1190 Simon de Beauchamp gave 100l. for the government of Bedford caſtle [o].

In 1216 William de Beauchamp, being then poſſeſſed of the barony of Bedford, took part with the rebellious barons, and received them as friends into his caſtle, which they were advancing to beſiege [p]. The king having ſent his favourite, Faukes de Brent, to ſummon the caſtle, it was ſurrendered within a few days, and given to him for his good ſervices [q]. The king appears to have been there in perſon the ſame year [r]. Matthew Paris informs us that Faukes de Brent (being thus poſſeſſed of the barony by the king's gift) rebuilt and fortified the caſtle, for which purpoſe he pulled down the collegiate church of St. Paul; and that the abbeſs of the neighbouring convent of Elſtow, hearing of his ſacrilege, took the ſword out of the hand of that ſaint's image in her church, and would not replace it till juſtice had overtaken the offender: but a charter of the firſt of Henry the third entirely exonerates Faukes de Brent from this charge, for by it the king grants the church of Tindene to the Monks of Newenham, as a compenſation for his father king John having ordered the church of Saint Paul's at Bedford, to them belonging, to be pulled down, when he cauſed Bedford caſtle to be fortified [s]. It is certain that Faukes de Brent, when he was in poſſeſſion of this caſtle, preſuming upon its impregnable ſtrength, ſet at nought all law and authority; and having been fined by the king's juſtices itinerant at Dunſtaple, in the year 1224, for his various outrages and depredations upon the property of his leſs powerful neighbours, he ſent a party of ſoldiers, who ſeized Henry de Braybroke one of the king's juſtices, and treating him with great barbarity,

[m] Baronage, Vol. i. p. 223, 224. [n] Parl. Rolls. [o] Dugdale. [p] Ibid. [q] M. Paris.
[r] Pat. 18. Joh. [s] Pat. 1 Hen. III. printed in Dugdale's Monaſticon, Vol. ii.

brought

brought him priſoner to the caſtle at Bedford[t]. The king hearing of theſe outrages, marched to Bedford in perſon, attended by Stephen Langton archbiſhop of Canterbury, and the principal peers of the realm. On this occaſion the archbiſhops, biſhops, and abbots granted a voluntary aid to the king, and two labourers from every hide of their lands to work the engines employed in the ſiege[u].

Camden has extracted from the Chronicle of Dunſtaple, the following account of the ſiege written by an eye-witneſs: "On the eaſt ſide," ſays the writer, "was one *Petraria* and two *Mangonella* which daily battered the tower, and on the weſt ſide two *Mangonella* ruined the old tower, and one *Mangonell* the ſouth, and one on the north made two breaches in the wall oppoſed to them. Beſides theſe, there were two wooden towers raiſed above the height of the caſtle for the croſs-bow-men and ſcouts, alſo many others in which the croſs-bow-men and ſlingers lay in ambuſh. There was alſo a machine called a cat, under which miners had free paſſage to ſap the walls of the tower and caſtle. The caſtle was taken by four aſſaults. In the firſt was taken the barbican, in the ſecond the outer bail, in the third the wall near the old tower was overthrown by the miners, through the breach of which they with great danger made themſelves maſters of the inner bail: on the fourth aſſault the miners ſet fire to the tower, and when the ſmoke burſt out and great cracks appeared in the tower the beſieged ſurrendered." The men of Dunſtaple made the ſecond aſſault here mentioned, in which the outer bail was taken, for which ſervice they had a conſiderable ſhare of the plunder[x]. Many lives were loſt by the fall of the old tower. The ſiege laſted two months, uncommon efforts being uſed to get poſſeſſion of this nurſery of ſedition, as Camden ſtiles it, which was deemed by its owner to have been of ſuch ſtrength as almoſt to defy any mode of aſſault then in uſe. The ſucceſs of the beſiegers was attributed chiefly to the uſe of a lofty wooden caſtle, higher than the walls, which gave the beſiegers an opportunity of obſerving every thing that paſſed within. Faukes de Brent was not in the caſtle at the time of its capture; his brother William with four and twenty of his officers were executed; Culmo another brother received the king's pardon; Faukes himſelf haſtened to Bedford to crave for mercy, under the protection of the biſhop of Coventry, and was pardoned on condition of being baniſhed the realm. The king ordered the caſtle to be diſmantled, and the ditches to be filled up. The ſtones were given to the monks of the two neighbouring priories, Newenham and Caldwell[y]. The barony of Bedford was reſtored to William de Beauchamp, who obtained the king's leave to erect a manſion on the ſite of the caſtle, and to incloſe it with a wall, not exceeding the height of that which belonged to the ſecond ward, and to be without any battlement[z].

[t] M. Paris. [u] Chron. Dunſt. [x] Chron. Dunſt. [y] Chron. Dunſt. [z] Dugdale.

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The king's orders, with reſpect to the total demolition of the caſtle, appear not to have been carried into effect, for John lord Moubray, who, through a female heir, inherited a part of the eſtates of the Beauchamps, is ſaid in the inquiſition taken after his death, in 1361, to have died ſeiſed of the *ruinous* caſtle at Bedford; and Camden ſpeaks of its ruins as exiſting in his time, overhanging the river on the eaſt ſide of the town. There is not a ſtone now remaining, but the veſtiges of the caſtle are to be ſeen at the back of the Swan Inn. On the keep is a bowling-green, formerly of much celebrity. After the death of John Moubray, the laſt duke of Norfolk of that name, the ſite of Bedford caſtle appears to have deſcended by a co-heir of the Moubrays to William marquis of Berkeley, who gave it to Sir Reginald Bray [a]. The ſite of the caſtle with the Swan inn is now the property of the duke of Bedford, and it is preſumed that it paſſed from the Goſtwicks by purchaſe to the Marlborough family, and from them, together with ſeveral other eſtates which had been in the Goſtwicks, to the Duke of Bedford's grandfather.

The barony of Bedford, conſiſting of ſeveral manors in Bedfordſhire and Buckinghamſhire, was divided among the three daughters of William de Beauchamp, who died in the reign of Edward I. Maud, wife of Roger de Moubray, Ela, wife of Baldwin Wake, and Beatrix, wife of Thomas Fitzotes. Some of the deſcendants of theſe co-heirs continued for many generations to poſſeſs, either entirely or in portions, manors which had been parcel of this barony. The barons of Bedford having been anciently lord almoners to the kings of England on the day of their coronation, Thomas de Moubray, as one of their co-heirs by the marriage of his anceſtor with Maud de Beauchamp, and John Lord Latimer, as inheriting a part of the barony which had paſſed in marriage with Maud, daughter of Beatrix de Beauchamp, to the Botetorts, claimed this office with its perquiſites at the coronation of king Henry IV. The claim of Lord Latimer was allowed, and Sir Thomas Grey was appointed to repreſent Thomas de Moubray, whoſe lands were then in the king's hands [b]. At the coronation of James II. the earl of Exeter, deſcended from the Latimers by the marriage of his anceſtor Thomas earl of Exeter with one of the co-heireſſes of John Neville, the laſt Lord Latimer [c]; Sir George Blundell deſcended from Ela

[a] See the Rolls of Parliament, Vol. vi. [b] Vincent's MSS. in Coll. Arm.

[c] The immediate deſcendants of the Latimers who inherited from the Botetorts, failed by the death of John Neville, the firſt Lord Latimer of that family without iſſue; but the manors, which were parcel of the barony of Bedford, were entailed on his brother Ralph Neville earl of Weſtmorland, whoſe ſon George became Lord Latimer, and deſcended to John Neville the laſt Lord Latimer, who left four daughters co-heireſſes, from one of whom the Marquis of Exeter is deſcended. The other daughters married the Earl of Northumberland, Sir William Cornwallis, and Sir John Danvers. The only known deſcendants in lineal ſucceſſion from the three daughters of William de Beauchamp, baron of Bedford

Ela de Beauchamp through the Pigots and Gaſcoignes; and Thomas Snag eſq. who, it is preſumed, poſſeſſed ſome lands parcel of the barony by purchaſe, claimed the office of almoner, which was adjudged for that time to the earl of Exeter [d]. In the reign of Henry VIII. the Goſtwicks acquired a conſiderable portion of this barony by purchaſe, partly from the Bedingfields. It is preſumed that the intereſt which the Goſtwick family had in the barony paſſed with the eſtates, which were ſold by them to the ducheſs of Marlborough, and were afterwards purchaſed of the Marlborough family by John duke of Bedford. The manor of Bedford, which was formerly part of the barony, has long been veſted in the corporation.

Before the conqueſt, there was a collegiate church at Bedford, dedicated to St. Paul. Roheſia or Roiſe, wife of Pain de Beauchamp, changed the prebendaries into canons regular. Her ſon Simon removed them to a new ſite in the neighbouring pariſh of Goldington, afterwards called Newenham [e], about a mile from Bedford down the river; from which circumſtance and his extenſive benefactions he was eſteemed their founder, and was ſo called on his tomb, which in Leland's time exiſted in the preſent church of St. Paul, having been removed, it is probable, from the ancient collegiate church, which was pulled down by king John as mentioned before.

Caldwell or Cawdwell Priory, about a quarter of a mile weſt of Bedford, on the banks of the Ouſe, was founded in the reign of king John, by Simon Bareſcot or Baſket, alderman of Bedford, for brethren of the order of the Holy Croſs or Holy Sepulchre, and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary; Robert de Houton gave the ſite. The founder conferred the patronage of this convent on Roger le Mareſchal. It paſſed afterwards to the Latimers and Uffords [f]. The order of the Holy Sepulchre falling to decay not long after the eſtabliſhment of this monaſtery, it is probable that it was repleniſhed with Auſtin canons; for at the time of its ſuppreſſion by Henry VIII. it was ſtated to be a priory of the laſt-mentioned order, and was then dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt and St. John the Evangeliſt. Its clear yearly income was ſtated to be 109l. 8s. 5d. The ſite was granted in 1563 to Thomas Leigh [g], whoſe deſcendants continued there in 1620 [h]. In 1682, it was the property of Edmund Gardiner eſq. [i] who had a ſeat there, which has been pulled down many

Bedford (as traced by Francis Townſend eſq. Windſor Herald), are Lord Stourton, Lord Petre, and the Earl of Berkeley from Maud the elder daughter; the Earl of Peterborough, the Duke of Leeds, Sir William Wake bart. Sir John Reade bart. the Earl of Guildford, and Sir Richard Bedingfield bart. all deſcended from Ela the ſecond daughter of William de Beauchamp (through the Pateſhulls); and the Duke of Beaufort, the Earl of Leiceſter, the Duke of Marlborough, and Thomas Clifford eſq. deſcended (through the Botetorts), from Beatrix third daughter of William de Beauchamp.

[d] Sandford's Hiſtory of the Coronation of James II. [e] Leland's Collectan. [f] Dugdale's Monaſt.
[g] Tanner. [h] MS. Diary of Th. Archer, rector of Houghton Conqueſt.
[i] Monument of his daughter-in-law Mary Lyſons in St. Mary's Church.

years

years ago, and a farm-houſe built in its place. The eſtate continued in the Gardiner family till about the year 1780. It now belongs to George Livius eſq. Traces of the conventual buildings may be ſeen in a field adjoining the farm-houſe.

The houſe of Grey-Friars, or Franciſcans, in Bedford, was founded by Mabel Pateſhull, lady of Bletſoe, before the year 1311 [k]. Leland deſcribes her tomb as being on the ſouth ſide of the high altar of the conventual church, under an arch, with an epitaph, in which ſhe was called the foundreſs. He ſpeaks alſo of the tomb of queen Eleanor, with her "image of plaine plate of braſſe encrounid;" that of one of the Lord Moubrays, (John Lord Moubray,) who died in 1361; and Sir Richard Irenceſter, who was ſaid to have made the body of the church. The revenues of this monaſtery, when ſuppreſſed, were eſtimated only at 3l. 15s. 2d. clear yearly value. Its ſite, on which is now a farm-houſe, (to the north-weſt of the town in the pariſh of St. Paul's,) was granted by Henry VIII. to John Goſtwick, maſter of the horſe [l]; it is now the property of the earl of Aſhburnham. The few remains which ſtill exiſt of the conventual buildings, exhibit ſome veſtiges of the cloiſters. A barn adjoining to the houſe is ſaid to have been the refectory.

St. Leonard's hoſpital, on the ſouth ſide of the town, was founded before the year 1302, by a townſman of Bedford. A record of that date calls it "the poor houſe of St. Leonard, in which were ſix freres chapleynes wearing a religious habit [m]." The patronage of this hoſpital was given by the town to Sir Reginald Bray, for his good offices in getting their fee-farm rent reduced [n]. It appears that the manor of Everton, on the borders of the county, belonged to this hoſpital [o], the revenues of which were valued in 1535 at 16l. 6s. 8¾d. *per annum* [p]. The ſite, which is in St. John's pariſh, is now a farm of the duke of Bedford.

The hoſpital of St. John the Baptiſt was founded in the year 1280 [q], by Robert de Parys, for a maſter and two or more brethren, prieſts, who were to pray for the ſouls of the founder, John St. John, Henry St. John, and John St. John, grandſon of John; and likewiſe for the reception and ſupport of decayed freemen of the town of Bedford. Many years before the reformation the hoſpital had ceaſed to be occupied according to the directions of the founder; and it appears by the ſurveys made of chantries and hoſpitals in the reign of Henry VIII. and Edward VI., that the hoſpital and pariſh church of St. John had long been conſolidated, and that there was no miniſter in that pariſh with the cure of ſouls but the maſter of

[k] Leland. [l] Tanner. [m] Rolls of Parliament, Vol. i. p. 154. [n] Leland.
[o] Placit. Inquiſ. &c. de terris in Com. Bed. in Turr. Lond. [p] Tanner.
[q] The foundation is by ſome writers ſaid to have been in the year 980. The miſtake has been occaſioned by a memorandum in biſhop Longland's regiſter at Lincoln, where the date is thus erroneouſly written, An° Dni Mill° nonocenteſimo lxxx^mo. Other ancient records mention 1280 as the date of the foundation, which correſponds with the pedigree of the St. Johns.

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the ſaid hoſpital. It appears alſo, by other records, that the preſentation to theſe joint offices was veſted in the corporation of Bedford. The right of the corporation has been frequently conteſted by perſons claiming the houſes and lands belonging to the hoſpital under grants from the crown; but the corporation, or rather the maſter and co-brethren, have been always ſucceſsful. It was determined ſo early as 1552, upon a ſuit which took place after the firſt grant, that the hoſpital did not come under the deſcription of ſuperſtitious eſtabliſhments, intended to be aboliſhed by the ſtatute. Since the laſt deciſion in 1743, the maſter and co-brethren have continued in quiet poſſeſſion, and the corporation have enjoyed, unmoleſted, their right of preſentation. The maſter or rector and co-brethren have been, from very ancient time, a body corporate, and have had a common ſeal. The co-brethren, who are poor freemen of Bedford appointed by the maſter, have no apartments in the hoſpital, which adjoins St. John's church, and has been long appropriated as the rectory-houſe. The ancient hall is ſtill remaining. The eſtate is held on leaſe under the maſter and co-brethren. The co-brethren receive a weekly allowance of 9*d.* each.

The bridge over the Ouſe, which connects the north and ſouth parts of the town of Bedford, is of great antiquity. There was formerly upon, or adjoining to it [r], a free chapel or oratory, with a hoſpital, dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr. It was built by the townſmen in the early part of the 14th century, and endowed with lands for the ſupport of a warden or chaplain, who enjoying the endowment for life, was to repair the bridge at his own expence [s]. The appointment of a warden appears to have been in diſpute between the townſmen of Bedford and the crown. As no mention appears of it on the Chantry Roll, it is ſuppoſed to have been dilapidated before the reformation. Two gateways, one of which ſerved for the town gaol, were taken down in 1765, to render the paſſage over the bridge more commodious.

Not far from St. Paul's church is an ancient Gothic building, now uſed as a brewery. This is ſuppoſed to have been part of one of the prebendal houſes, which Leland ſpeaks of as exiſting in his time at Bedford, notwithſtanding their ſtalls had been removed to Lincoln. The building above-mentioned is held on leaſe under the dean and chapter of that church.

The Gothic building in the George-yard is nothing more than part of the original ſtructure of that ancient inn, which is ſpoken of by the ſame name in a record of the year 1481 [t]. In the centre is a large gateway, and on one ſide the figure of St. George under a Gothic niche.

[r] Moſt Records (Pat. 42 Edw. III. &c.) deſcribe it as on the bridge; but a petition to parliament in 1338, (ſee Rolls of Parliament, Vol. ii. p. 100.) ſpeaks of it as cloſe adjoining to the bridge on the land of Lord Moubray.

[s] Rolls of Parliament II. p. 100. [t] Eſch. 20 Edw. IV. See under the name of Illingworth.

Bedford is eſteemed a borough and corporation by preſcription, and is ſo called in all legal proceedings. The firſt charter on record is that of Henry II. who, in 1166, granted and confirmed the town of Bedford to the burgeſſes, ſubject to a payment of 40l. *per annum* as a fee-farm rent to the crown. His ſon Richard confirmed their mercantile guild and all their ancient privileges, and granted other new privileges and immunities ſimilar to thoſe enjoyed by the burgeſſes of Oxford. Richard II. granted more extended privileges, and, among others, a view of frank-pledge within the borough. In his charter the corporation are ſtyled the mayor, bailiffs, and burgeſſes; their preſent ſtyle of mayor, bailiffs, burgeſſes, and commonalty, firſt occurs in an inquiſition of the reign of Henry VI. They conſiſt of a mayor, recorder, an indefinite number of aldermen, two chamberlains, and thirteen common council-men. The number of aldermen is neceſſarily uncertain, the office of mayor being always filled by a burgeſs, who has previouſly ſerved the offices of bailiff and chamberlain, and who immediately after the expiration of his mayoralty, becomes an alderman. The mayor, bailiffs, and chamberlains, are elected annually on the firſt of September. The common council are elected annually, from among the burgeſſes, on the Wedneſday before St. Matthew's day. The bailiffs for the time being are ſheriffs of the borough, and lords of the manor.

In the reign of Henry VI. the fee-farm rent payable by the burgeſſes to the crown, being then 46l. *per annum*, was remitted in part for a time, on a repreſentation of the poverty of the town [u]. By the interceſſion of Sir Reginald Bray, when he was prime miniſter to Henry VII. it was permanently reduced to 20l. *per annum*; and at ſome ſubſequent time to 16l. 5s. 8d. which is now payable to Lord Carteret and the Rev. John Pery, as repreſentatives, it is preſumed, of thoſe who purchaſed the rent of the crown. Lord Carteret's ſhare, about 12*l. per annum*, has been long given in augmentation of the vicarage of St. Paul's, which is in the patronage of that nobleman.

The town-hall, or ſeſſions-houſe, (in which are held the aſſizes for the county) was built in 1753. It is ſituated in the area before St. Paul's church. The town gaol, which ſtood formerly on the bridge, was taken down in or about the year 1765, after which, a temporary gaol was fitted up under the town-hall, and afterwards a new gaol was built in St. Lloyd's, near the alms-houſes; but being found inconvenient, was taken down, and another has been lately erected to the North-weſt of the town, near the road to Kettering; where a new county gaol alſo was completed in the year 1801, towards the building of which the late

[u] Among other cauſes which led to the decay of the town, is ſtated the building of Barford bridge, which diverted many travellers from paſſing through Bedford. See the charter of 25 Henry VI. extracts from which, and various other charters, have been obligingly communicated by Mr. Theed Pearſe, with permiſſion of the corporation.

Mr.

Mr. Whitbread left a legacy of 500*l.* The priſoners ſleep in ſeparate rooms; and the ſyſtem of ſolitary confinement is occaſionally adopted. In 1803 an act of parliament paſſed, enabling the inhabitants of Bedford to pave and light the town, to build a new bridge, to pull down the butchers' ſhambles, and to build a new market-place, with a ſeſſions-houſe above it, and a butter-market on the ſite of the old gaol. This act has been partly carried into effect, and a pent-houſe is now placed on the ſite of the old gaol, where the new market-houſe is hereafter to be erected.

Bedford ſent two members to parliament as early as the year 1295. The right of election was determined, in 1690, to be in the burgeſſes, freemen, and inhabitant houſeholders not receiving alms. Browne Willis, in his laſt edition of the Notitia Parliamentaria, ſpeaks of their number as above 700. At the laſt conteſted election in 1790, 1148 voters polled; and the number is ſince increaſed by the addition of ſeveral honorary freeman. The mayor and bailiffs are the returning officers.

The principal manufacture of the town is lace: a conſiderable trade is carried on in coals, which are brought by the Ouſe from Lynn and Yarmouth.

The population of Bedford has increaſed very much of late years. The number of inhabited houſes, in 1801, as appears by the returns then made to Parliament, was 783; of inhabitants 3948, of which 2221 are ſtated to be perſons chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft. Seventy-two houſes on the north ſide of the town, being for the moſt part very mean cottages, were deſtroyed by fire on the 25th of May 1802. The fire was occaſioned by a piece of a red-hot horſe-ſhoe, from a blackſmith's forge, falling on the thatch of a houſe. The damage amounted to about 2000*l.* The ſufferers being moſtly of the poorer ſort, a very liberal ſubſcription was made for them in the town and county, amounting nearly to the whole of their loſs. Neat cottages have been built on the ſite of thoſe which were deſtroyed by the fire.

The principal market at Bedford, which is held on Saturday, on the north ſide of the river, is a conſiderable mart for corn. The Monday's market, on the ſouth ſide of the river, is chiefly for pigs. There are ſix annual fairs, viz. the firſt Tueſday in Lent, April 21, Old Midſummer-day, Auguſt 21, October 12, and December 19. Beſides theſe, an annual fair is held at St. Leonard's farm, on the 17th of November.

There are in Bedford five pariſh churches, St. Paul's, St. Peter's, and St. Cuthbert's, on the north ſide; St. Mary's and St. John the Baptiſt's on the ſouth ſide of the river.

St. Paul's is a very handſome Gothic building, with a ſpire. In the ſouth

chancel, which is fitted up for the archdeacon's court, is an altar-tomb with braſs figures of Sir William Harper and his lady. Sir William, who died in 1574, was ſometime Lord Mayor of London, and a great benefactor to this his native town. On the eaſt wall is a modern monument, with medallions of Sir William and Lady Harper, put up in 1768 by the truſtees of the Harper charity, with an inſcription recording their benefactions. On the ſouth wall of the nave is painted a recumbent figure of king Charles the Firſt under an open canopy, by the ſide of which are inſcribed ſome very indifferent lines, alluding to his trial and execution.

The pulpit is of ſtone, ornamented with gilt tracery, on a blue ground.

In the church-yard is the tomb of a couple, "Shadrach and Patience Johnſon," who had 24 children.

The benefice of this church is an endowed vicarage, in the gift of Lord Carteret. Thomas Chriſtie eſq. being poſſeſſed of the great tithes, gave them, in the year 1697, to the vicar and his ſucceſſors, charged with the payment of a ſhilling each weekly, to eight poor perſons, in the alms-houſes built by him.

The churches of St. Peter and St. Cuthbert contain nothing remarkable. In the church-yard of the former is the tomb of Mr. Aſpinal, a rector of that pariſh, who aſſiſted the learned Dr. Caſtell in his laborious reſearches in the Oriental languages. The churches of St. Peter (called St. Peter Martin, to diſtinguiſh it from another church of the ſame name, formerly on the ſouth ſide of the river) and St. Cuthbert, are both rectories in the gift of the crown.

The pariſhes of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. Cuthbert, were incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1795, when allotments of land in lieu of tithes were aſſigned to the ſeveral perſons entitled to them.

The churches of St. Mary and St. John contain nothing remarkable. The latter, as before-mentioned, is annexed to the hoſpital of that name, and is conſidered as a rectory, of which the corporation have the patronage. St. Mary's is a rectory in the patronage of the biſhop of Lincoln. The pariſh of St. Mary has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1797, when an allotment of land was made to the rector in lieu of tithes. It was computed that there were then about 400 acres belonging to this pariſh lying in open fields. The rector of St. John's was entitled to the tithes of about twelve acres of land in this pariſh, for which an allotment was alſo made.

In the regiſter of this pariſh are entries of the burial of three nuns of Elſtow, "dame Ann Preſton, dame Elizabeth Fox, and dame Elizabeth Napier," who died in 1557 and 1558.

Oppoſite to St. Mary's church, where is now a void ſpace, ſtood formerly a church called St. Peter's Dunſtaple, which before the year 1400 was a ſeparate pariſh:

pariſh: it was afterwards annexed to St. Mary's, the ſervice being performed at each on alternate weeks, and the books and ornaments removed from one church to the other. In 1545 the pariſhioners were permitted by Sir Edward North, chancellor of the Augmentations, to pull down St. Peter's church, on condition of their uſing ſuch materials as were not wanted, for the repairs of St. Mary's (to which they had then lately added a new aiſle) in mending the ſtreets, and repairing the bridge.

The old Independent meeting-houſe in Mill-lane was originally eſtabliſhed in 1650, under the miniſtry of John Gifford, who had been a major in king Charles's army [x]. The celebrated John Bunyan was ordained co-paſtor of this congregation with Samuel Fenn in 1671, and continued in that ſituation till his death in 1688 [y]. His memory is much revered by the congregation; and the chair in which he uſed to ſit is preſerved as a kind of relick in the veſtry. On the wall of the cemetery is a tablet to the memory of his great-grand-daughter, with an epitaph, which ſtates, that he exerciſed his miniſtry in and about Bedford for thirty-two years, during which time he ſuffered twelve years impriſonment. The preſent meeting-houſe was built in 1707. The congregation are a mixture of baptiſts and pædo-baptiſts. They have a baptiſtery for adults under their communion table, in the centre of the meeting, for ſuch as diſapprove of infant baptiſm. In 1772, ſome members of this congregation formed themſelves into a ſeparate ſociety, and built a new meeting-houſe, not far from the old one, in the ſame lane. The members of the new meeting are pædo-baptiſts.

The Moravians, or ſociety of *Unitas fratrum*, have had an eſtabliſhment at Bedford ever ſince the year 1745. They have a neat chapel built in 1751. Adjoining it are houſes for the ſingle brethren and ſiſters, who reſpectively live in community. In the ſiſters' houſe are nearly forty ſingle women, who are employed in working tambour. Behind the chapel is a cemetery, in which is a memorial of one of their biſhops. It is kept extremely neat, in four compartments: the tomb-ſtones are all flat, ſmall, and uniform, as in their burial-ground at Chelſea.

The free-ſchool at Bedford was founded by Sir William Harper, alderman of London, for the inſtruction of children of the town in grammar and good manners. The letters patent bear date 1552, the founder's deed 1566. The ſchool-houſe, conveyed by that deed to the corporation, had been built by Sir William Harper between thoſe periods. It was rebuilt by the truſtees in 1767, when a ſtatue of the founder was placed in the front. The warden and fellows of New College in Oxford are viſitors of the ſchool, and appoint the maſter and uſher, or ſecond maſter.

[x] Printed account of the riſe and progreſs of this meeting, annexed to a Funeral Sermon.

[y] Ibid.

The

The maſter's ſalary, under the laſt act for regulating the Bedford charities, is 260l. with coals and candles; that of the ſecond maſter 160l., with the like perquiſites. Under the ſame act, the writing-maſter has a ſalary of 80l. *per annum.* The preſent head-maſter is the Rev. John Hook, B. C. L.; the ſecond maſter, Charles Abbot, D.D.

Sir William Harper, when he founded the free-ſchool at Bedford, conveyed to the corporation thirteen acres of land in the pariſh of St. Andrew Holborn, for its ſupport, and for the marriage of poor maidens of this town; the overplus, if any, to be given in alms to the poor. This land having been let on building leaſes, Lamb's Conduit-ſtreet, Theobald's-road, Bedford-ſtreet, Bedford-row, and ſome leſſer ſtreets were built on it; the rents were in conſequence advanced to 150l. *per annum;* and when the greater part of the leaſes fell in, which happened about the year 1763, they were advanced to nearly 3000l. *per annum!* The truſtees then applied to parliament for an act to regulate the diſpoſal of this noble income, which was accordingly obtained: but ſome of the regulations having been productive of inconvenience to the town, a new act was procured in 1792; at which time other leaſes having nearly expired, the eſtates were about to experience a further advance of almoſt 1000l. *per annum.* The truſtees were made a body corporate by the act of 1764. By the laſt act they are to conſiſt of the lord lieutenant and the two members for the county, the members for the town, the corporation of Bedford, and eighteen other elective inhabitants. The eſtates now produce about 5800l. *per annum.* A farther increaſe is very ſoon expected, and at a future period they will be capable of much greater improvement.

Under the laſt act, three exhibitions of 40l. *per annum* each are given to ſcholars from the free-ſchool, either at Oxford or Cambridge, during the ſpace of ſix years. The ſum to be appropriated for marriage-portions is fixed at 800l. *per annum*, to be given by lot in portions of 20l. each to forty poor maidens of Bedford, of good fame and reputation, not under ſixteen years of age, and not exceeding fifty. They muſt marry within two months after drawing the fortunate lots, otherwiſe they forfeit the portion. The men to whom they are to be married muſt not be vagrants, or perſons of bad fame or reputation. At a future opportunity, it is probable that the truſtees will procure ſome farther regulations to be made reſpecting the huſbands, ſince the object of the donation, which is intended to ſettle a poor couple comfortably in life, is ſo often defeated by the maidens marrying ſoldiers belonging to marching regiments quartered in Bedford; the almoſt inevitable conſequence of which is, that the portion is no ſooner received than diſſipated, and it not unfrequently happens that the women return, after a time, with orphan families, and, unable to prove their huſbands' ſettlements, become heavy burdens to the town.

If,

If, for want of a ſufficient number of applications, there ſhould be any overplus of the 800l. appropriated annually for marriage-portions, it is to be given to poor women of good fame and reputation, who have lived five ſucceſſive years in ſervice in the town of Bedford, and have been married within the preceding year.

The act appropriates the ſum of 300l. *per annum* for the ſupport of twenty-ſix boys in a hoſpital or ſchool of induſtry, and 700l. to be laid out in apprentice-fees for fifteen poor boys and five girls, to be choſen by lot. Alms-houſes have been built alſo, purſuant to the directions of the act, for ten poor men and the ſame number of women. The weekly allowance to each is 3s., and 40s. annually for clothing. If a poor man and his wife live together, they are allowed to the amount of 5s. a week. The ſum of 100l. *per annum* was appropriated to be given in ſums of 5l. each to twenty poor girls at their going out to ſervice. The reſidue, after providing for the above-mentioned purpoſes as expreſſed in the act, is to be laid out in building and endowing more alms-houſes, or building cottages, to be let at low rents to the poor.

If another opportunity ſhould offer, upon the expected farther increaſe of the charity eſtates, of making any change in the preſent regulations, or any new diſpoſition of the additional fund, the truſtees would find the plan of Mr. Raine's charities, in the pariſh of St. George in the Eaſt, Middleſex, not unworthy their notice, particularly his hoſpital for girls. Mr. Raine gave two annual marriage-portions of 100l. each, to be drawn for by ſix of the moſt deſerving young women of the age of twenty-two or upwards, who had been educated in his hoſpital. The huſbands muſt be of the church of England, and inhabitants of the pariſh of St. George in the Eaſt, or either of two adjoining pariſhes. If ſuch a regulation ſhould be thought too limited, it might perhaps remedy the inconvenience complained of at Bedford, if the maidens portioned by Sir William Harper's charity were reſtricted to marrying inhabitants of their own town or county.

A charity-ſchool for twenty children of the pariſhes of St. Paul and St. Cuthbert, was founded by the Rev. Mr. Leith and others, before the year 1737.

Thomas Chriſtie eſq. built, in his life-time, an alms-houſe for eight poor perſons, to whom he bequeathed one ſhilling each weekly, payable out of the great tithes of St. Paul's.

The houſe of induſtry at Bedford, a large and handſome brick-building to the north of the town, was begun in the year 1794, and finiſhed in 1796. It is fitted up with every uſeful accommodation; and great attention has been paid to the health as well as comfort and convenience of the inhabitants. In point of œconomical contrivance, perhaps, it is inferior to ſome buildings of a like nature. A manufacture of flannel has been eſtabliſhed in this houſe on an extenſive ſcale; it is in a flouriſhing

flouriſhing ſtate; and the good effects of the inſtitution begin to be felt in the reduction of the poors' rates.

A general infirmary for the county has been lately erected in St. Mary's pariſh. The late Mr. Whitbread bequeathed 4000l. towards the ſtructure, (which was aided by donations from the nobility and principal gentry of the county, particularly the duke of Bedford, the earl of Oſſory, and the preſent Mr. Whitbread,) and another ſum of 4000l. towards its endowment, which is farther provided for by the intereſt of various ſmaller donations, and by annual ſubſcriptions. The infirmary was opened for the reception of patients on the 13th of Auguſt 1803; it is now completely finiſhed, and ready for the reception of 38 in-patients, which is its full complement.

BIDDENHAM, a ſmall village on the Ouſe, about two miles weſt of Bedford, is in the hundred of Willey. The manor, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, belonged to William Spec, anceſtor of Walter de Eſpec, founder of Warden Abbey. It was afterwards in the earls of Glouceſter and Stafford [z]; under whom, as lords of the fee, it ſeems to have been held for ſeveral generations by the St. Johns, who were in poſſeſſion of it till 1582 [a], and perhaps later. It is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Hampden, in whoſe family it has been for nearly a century. In the church are ſeveral memorials for the family of Boteler, who were ſettled at Biddenham for ten generations [b]. Sir William Boteler, of this family, was Lord Mayor of London in 1515. There was a chantry in this church dedicated to St. William; and the chantry of Biddenham Bridge, which had a conſiderable endowment in lands [c], charged probably with the repairs of the bridge which leads from Bedford to the north of Buckinghamſhire, and is now known by the name of Bromham Bridge. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Denny, in Cambridgeſhire, are now the property of Lord Hampden. He is patron alſo of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford.

BIGGLESWADE, in the hundred of that name, and in the deanery of Shefford, is a conſiderable market town, 45 miles from London, ſituated on the great road to York, and on the banks of the Ivel. The market is held on Wedneſdays, by what charter does not appear on record, but it is probable that it was granted to ſome of the biſhops of Lincoln, to which ſee the manor was annexed by Henry I. in 1132 [d]. Biſhop Holbeach ſurrendered it to Edward VI. in 1547. It is now

[z] Eſch. Edw. III. and Rich. II. [a] Collins's Peerage—Article Bolingbroke.
[b] Pedigrees Brit. Muſ. [c] Chantry Roll in the Augmentation Office.
[d] Dugdale's Monaſticon, Vol. iii.

held

held on leaſe under the crown by the Right Honourable Lord Carteret, in whoſe family it has been for a conſiderable time.

In 1785, this town ſuſtained great damage by a fire, which conſumed about 120 houſes. The number of houſes in the pariſh, (including Stratton and Holme,) according to the returns made to Parliament under the Population Act, in 1801, was 317; that of the inhabitants, 1794.

There are five annual fairs at Biggleſwade; February 13, Saturday in Eaſter week, Trinity Monday, Auguſt 2, and November 8.

The pariſh church is a handſome Gothic ſtructure. The chancel was rebuilt about the year 1467, by John Ruding archdeacon of Bedford, whoſe arms are to be ſeen under the ſeats of ſome ancient wooden ſtalls in the north aiſle. He died in 1481, and lies buried in the chancel. A plate of his tomb (from which his effigies in braſs has been removed) is to be ſeen in Gough's Sepulchral Monuments. The rectory, to which the advowſon of the vicarage is annexed, is the corps of a prebend in the church of Lincoln.

The manor of *Stratton*, a hamlet in this pariſh, now the ſeat of Charles Barnett eſq. was, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, the property of Ralph de Liſle. It was afterwards ſucceſſively in the Latimers [f], Nevils, and Enderbys. Francis Pigott became poſſeſſed of it by marrying Eleanor, the daughter and heir of John Enderby who died in 1509 [g]. The Pigotts had been ſettled at Stratton long before, and had ſerved the office of ſheriff of the counties of Bedford and Bucks ſo early as the year 1408. About the latter end of the ſixteenth century, Stratton became the property of the Anderſons of Eyworth. Edmund, the eldeſt ſon of Sir Francis Anderſon, left an only daughter, Dorothy, an infant, who became the wife of Sir John Cotton bart. the munificent donor of the valuable Cottonian Library, which had been collected by his grandfather. This national treaſure, we are told, was, during the civil wars in the reign of King Charles I. preſerved at Stratton, whither it had been removed, for greater ſecurity, from Connington, the ancient ſeat of the Cottons [h]. Sir John Cotton, the laſt heir male of this family, died in 1752. Stratton was purchaſed of his repreſentatives in 1764, by the truſtees of Mr. Barnett's father, Curtis Barnett eſq. who died, in 1746, at Fort St. David, on the coaſt of Coromandel, being commander in chief of his Majeſty's ſhips on that ſtation. About 300 roſe-nobles of Henry V. and VI. were found by a plowman, in 1770, upon the ſite of the old manſion. There was anciently a chapel at Stratton, mentioned in records of the reign of Edward III. [i] The manor of Holme-cum-Langford, the greater part of which is in this pariſh, belongs

[f] Eſch. Edw. II.—Hen. VI. [g] Cole's Eſcheats, and Bedfordſhire Pedigrees, Brit Muſ.
[h] Stukeley's Itin. Curioſ. [i] Mr. Stratton's papers.

to the dean and chapter of Weſtminſter. Lord Spencer has moſt of the landed property in the hamlet of Holme.

Sir John Cotton bart. who died in 1752, by his will bearing date 1726, founded a charity ſchool at Stratton, for the inſtruction of twelve poor children of the pariſh of Biggleſwade; and having deviſed the ſum of 1800l. to be laid out in lands for charitable purpoſes, directed that two-ninths of the rents ſhould be appropriated as a ſalary for the maſter of this ſchool, who is to be nominated, from time to time, by the lord of the manor of Stratton. The eſtate purchaſed purſuant to the donor's intention, was the lay rectory of Flitwick in this county. The proportion paid out of the preſent rent, to the maſter of this ſchool, is 14*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* Sir John Cotton's will gives a proportion of one-ninth of the ſaid rents, now 7*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* to the vicar of Biggleſwade.

Edward Peake eſq. of Southill, in the year 1557, founded a ſchool at Holme, for teaching eight poor boys of the pariſh of Biggleſwade, Engliſh, writing, and accounts; and endowed it with a rent-charge of 13*l.* *per annum*, and a houſe at Holme, valued at 2*l.* 3*s.* *per annum*. Theſe ſchools are at preſent under the ſame maſter.

Bletsoe, in the hundred of Willey, and deanery of Clopham, is a ſmall village about ſix miles north-weſt of Bedford, on the road to Higham Ferrers. The manor, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, was part of the large poſſeſſions of Hugh de Beauchamp; it was afterwards in the family of Patſhull. Mabel Patſhull, lady of this manor, founded the monaſtery of Grey Friars at Bedford, in the reign of Edward the Firſt. In 1327, John de Pateſhull obtained the king's licence for embattling his manſion at Bletſoe[k]. In 1344 he was ſummoned to parliament as a baron. Sir Roger de Beauchamp, chamberlain to King Edward the Third, having married his eldeſt daughter, on a partition of the eſtates after the death of a ſon who died without iſſue, became poſſeſſed of this manor, made it his chief ſeat, and was ſummoned to parliament in 1373 as baron Beauchamp of Bletſoe. Margaret his grand-daughter, who, on failure of male iſſue, became his ſole heir, married Sir Oliver St. John, a deſcendant of the ancient family of St. John of Baſing, who were already poſſeſſed of large eſtates in Bedfordſhire, inherited by a female heir, from the Pavelys[l]. Her ſecond huſband was John Beaufort, duke of Somerſet, by whom ſhe had one daughter, Margaret, the wife of Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond and mother of king Henry VII. This illuſtrious lady, who was foundreſs of St. John's and Chriſt's Colleges in Cambridge, is ſaid to have been born at Bletſoe. That her mother, the ducheſs of Somerſet, reſided there in great ſtate,

[k] Pat. 1. Edw. III. [l] Collin's Peerage.

may

may be collected from the epitaph of Ralph Lannoy, formerly in Bletſoe church. He died in 1458, and is ſtyled cofferer and keeper of the wardrobe to the moſt noble Margaret ducheſs of Somerſet, then married to a third huſband, Leo Lord Welles. Sir Oliver St. John's deſcendant of the ſame name, was, in 1559, created Lord St. John of Bletſoe. Oliver, the fourth baron, was, in 1624, advanced to the title of Earl of Bolingbroke. The earldom became extinct in 1711. The barony devolved to the poſterity of Sir Rowland St. John, a younger ſon of Oliver Lord St. John, the third baron; and is now enjoyed by his immediate deſcendant, Henry Beauchamp, Lord St. John, to whom the manor of Bletſoe ſtill belongs. The greater part of the manſion has been long ago pulled down; what remains is converted into a farm houſe. It appears to have formed one ſide of a large quadrangular building, of the ſtyle of architecture which prevailed in the early part of the ſeventeenth century. Veſtiges of the ancient caſtellated manſion are plainly diſcernible near the houſe.

In the north aiſle of the pariſh church, which is the burial-place of the noble family of St. John, there is a monument, with the effigies of a knight in armour, and his lady; intended for Sir John St. John, father of Oliver, the firſt Lord St. John, whom he lived to ſee created a peer. The word *matertera* in the epitaph muſt be underſtood to mean *great* aunt; the inſcription cannot apply to the father of this Sir John, who was, properly ſpeaking, the nephew of Margaret counteſs of Richmond: ſince we find by the *probate* of his will, that *he* died in 1525. It appears by the following inſcription, that the counteſs of Richmond brought him up with her grandſon King Henry VIII.; who made him guardian of his daughters, the princeſſes Mary and Elizabeth; and that he died in the office of chamberlain to the latter, when queen.

" Infans, vir, ſenior, ſemper clariſſimus Heros:
Principibus puerum primis eduxit ab annis
Richmundæ Comitiſſa, ſui matertera alumni,
Inde vir effectus, Regis pervenit ad aulam
Henrici Octavi, geminas hoc tempore natas
Rex habuit quibus ambabus lectiſſimus heros
Huic datus eſt cuſtos, datus eſt camerarius illi.
O quoties illius opem bello Anglia ſenſit;
Nunc veſana fremit Lincolnia, nunc fremit ingens
Gallia bis hujus notâ virtute ſubacta;
Mota ſub Edwardo pendit Norfolcia ſexto,
Mittitur huc inter proceres; quos inter & omnes
Vel fuit hic primus, vel nulli Marte ſecundus.
Denique jam Senis ſaturatus honoribus annis,
Reginæ electus camerarius Elizabethæ,
Occidit & prolem ſimilem virtute reliquit."

In the ſame aiſle is the monument of Frances, counteſs of Bolingbroke (daughter of William Duke of Newcaſtle). The patronage of the rectory is veſted in Lord St. John.

BLUNHAM, a ſmall village in the hundred of Wixamtree, and deanery of Shefford, about eight miles nearly eaſt of Bedford, had formerly a market on Wedneſdays, and a fair at the feſtival of St. James, granted, in 1315, to John Lord Haſtings [m]. The manor was anciently in the Valences, earls of Pembroke, from whom it deſcended by female heirs to the noble families of Haſtings and Grey; and is now the property of their repreſentative, the Right Honourable Lady Lucas.

Charles Grey, earl of Kent, reſided at the manor-houſe of Blunham, (now a farm,) and died there in 1625, as appears by his epitaph in Flitton church. In the pariſh church at Blunham, is the monument of Lady Suſan Longueville, his daughter and heir, who carried the barony of Grey of Ruthin into the family of Longueville, afterwards earls of Suſſex. There are ſome memorials alſo of the Longuevilles, and of the family of Bromſall; one of whom ſerved the office of ſheriff of the county in 1650, and was inſtrumental in preſerving the Cottonian library, then depoſited at Stratton, during the civil war. The rectory of Blunham is in the patronage of Lady Lucas.

The manor of *Mogerhanger*, a hamlet in this pariſh, was anciently in the Trompetons or Trompingtons [n]. It was afterwards in the noble family of Ferrars of Groby [o]; and is now the property and ſeat of Godfrey Thornton eſq. who has alſo the manors of Chalton and South Mills, in this pariſh; all of which he inherited from his uncle the late Richard Aſtell eſq. of Everton. Mrs. Campbell, relict of the late Colonel Campbell, deputy-governor of Chelſea Hoſpital, has a ſeat in this pariſh, formerly belonging to the Bromſalls, who, it is ſuppoſed, were poſſeſſed of the eſtates which are now the property of Mr. Thornton.

The pariſh of Blunham has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1796, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, excepting thoſe of Mogerhanger, which were allotted to Mr. Thornton, and a corn rent aſſigned in lieu of them to the rector.

BOLNHURST, in the hundred of Stodden, and deanery of Eaton, is about eight miles north-eaſt of Bedford. The manor belonged to the family of St. John, as early as the reign of Edward III. and continued their property ſo lately as the 17th century. It was afterwards in the Fleetwoods and Churchills; of the latter of

[m] Cart. 8. Edw. II. [n] Eſch. Edw. I. Edw. III. [o] Eſch. Ric. II.

whom

whom it was purchaſed about the year 1780 by the preſent proprietors, Jacob Turner, John Caldecot, and Samuel Wyatt. The manor of Maverns and Glintells (in this pariſh, and Great Barford), now the property of John Franklin eſq. has been in his family for more than two centuries. George Franklin eſq. of Maverns, was ſheriff of the county in 1600. Maverns has long ceaſed to be the family-ſeat; they reſided afterwards at Great Barford, and are now removed out of the county. In the pariſh church is the monument of Sir John Franklin, one of the maſters in chancery, who died in 1707, and ſeveral other memorials of the family. The advowſon of the rectory was formerly veſted in Thorney abbey, to which two-thirds of the great tithes, now in lay hands, were appropriated. The rector has the remaining third of ſo much of the pariſh as was compriſed in the incloſure, which took place by act of parliament in 1778[p]. The advowſon is now veſted in the Rev. Mr. Dolling the preſent incumbent.

Bromham, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, is a ſmall village ſituated on the banks of the Ouſe about three miles from Bedford, near the road to Newport Pagnell. The manor was, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, part of the large property of Hugh de Beauchamp, and upon the extinction of the male line of his family, became divided into ſeveralties, which paſſed through the families of Munchenſi, Tyes, Moubray, Boteler, Wake, Latimer, and Nevil[q]. It appears to have been again united in the 16th century. Sir John Dyve, who died in 1607, inherited it by female deſcent from the family of Wylde. His ſon, Sir Lewis Dyve, was a diſtinguiſhed officer on the king's ſide, during the civil war. It was purchaſed of the Dyves about the year 1707 by Sir Thomas Trevor, who, in 1711, was created a peer by the title of Baron Trevor of Bromham; and it is now the property of his deſcendant, the Right Hon. Thomas Hampden Trevor, Viſcount Hampden.

The manor-houſe, although ſmall and inconvenient, and from its ſituation near the Ouſe liable to frequent floods, was for many years a country-ſeat of the noble family of Trevor. The late Viſcount Hampden frequently reſided there. The pointed door-way at the entrance appears to have belonged to a much more ancient manſion. In the hall are ſeveral family portraits, among which are thoſe of Sir Richard Trevor, a diſtinguiſhed naval and military officer, knighted in the field by Queen Elizabeth; Sir Richard Trevor of Placetage, a fine picture in the ſtyle of Cornelius Janſen; Sir John Trevor of Trevallyn; Sir Thomas Trevor, chief baron of the exchequer; and Thomas, the

[p] Allotments of land were aſſigned to the lord of the manor and the rector for ſuch parts as were then incloſed.

[q] Dugdale's Baronage, and various Eſcheats.

firſt

firſt Lord Trevor. There is a portrait alſo of Lord Chief Juſtice Dyer, and a few others.

In the chancel of the pariſh church is a very handſome monument of the firſt Lord Trevor, an eminent lawyer, who had been Lord Chief Juſtice of the common pleas, and at the time of his death, in 1730, was Lord Privy-Seal and Preſident of the Council. There is a handſome monument alſo of John, the third Lord Trevor, who died in 1764, by Prince Hoare. On the chancel floor are the figures, in braſs, of Sir John Dyve, his mother, who was heireſs of Thomas Wylde, lord of the manor of Bromham, and his wife Iſabel, daughter and heir of Sir Ralph Haſtings. In the north aiſle is a handſome monument, with the effigies of a man in armour, lying under a canopy ſupported by Ionic columns, which, from the arms, appears to be that of John Dyve eſq. who married a Walcot. The rectory of Bromham belonged to the monaſtery of Caldwell near Bedford, and was granted by King Edward VI. to Eton college, together with the advowſon of the vicarage [r].

Caddington, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Dunſtaple, lies about two miles from Luton. The church, with about a fifth of the pariſh, is in Bedfordſhire; the remainder in the adjoining county of Herts. The manor of Caddington Bury has been in the church of St. Paul ever ſince the latter end of the eleventh century. In Edward the Confeſſor's time it was held under the crown [s]. The dean and chapter of St. Paul's have alſo the impropriation of the great tithes, and are patrons of the vicarage. Two prebendal eſtates in the ſame church, known by the names of Caddington Major, and Caddington Minor, are in this pariſh. William Beckford eſq. who is leſſee of the rectory under the church of St. Paul, has an eſtate in this pariſh called the manor of Zouches, which was anciently in the families of Cantelupe and Zouch, and ſeems to have paſſed through the ſame hands as the manor of Eaton-Bray.

On the Hertfordſhire ſide of the pariſh is *Market Cell*, the ſite of a nunnery of the Benedictine order, founded by Geoffrey abbot of St. Alban's, about the year 1145 [t]. We are told, that Humphrey, a natural ſon of Lord Berners, beſtowed much coſt and art in building a houſe on this ſite, but did not live to finiſh it [u]. It was after this, in 1548, granted to George Ferrers [w], whoſe deſcendant Sir John Ferrers died ſeiſed of it in 1640 [x]. After this it was for a conſiderable time the ſeat of the family of Coppin, of whom there are ſome memorials in the pariſh church of Caddington. The ſite of this monaſtery, together with the manor of Markyate, are now the property and ſeat of Joſeph Howell eſq. The manor of

[r] Records in the Augmentation Office. [s] Dugdale's Monaſt. Vol. iii. [t] Tanner.
[u] Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. ii. [w] Tanner. [x] Cole's Eſcheats, Brit. Muſ.

Humberſhoe,

Humberſhoe, partly in Bedfordſhire and partly in Herts, lying within the pariſhes of Caddington and Studham, was alſo in the families of Ferrers[y] and Coppin, and was ſold a few years ago by J. Pitman Coppin eſq. to John Lambert eſq. of whom it was purchaſed in 1802, by Mr. William Shone.

*Market-ſtreet*, on the road from London to Dunſtaple, is in the pariſhes of Caddington and Studham. In the former pariſh, and in the county of Herts, is a chapel of eaſe, founded by John Coppin eſq. which by an act of parliament, paſſed in the year 1741, was made a perpetual cure and benefice. The pariſh of Caddington has been incloſed by a late act of parliament: an allotment of land was aſſigned to the impropriator in lieu of tithes, and an allotment of 20 acres to the vicar, excluſive of his glebe, together with a corn-rent equivalent to his farther intereſt. The vicar was entitled to the tithes of hay and wood. The pariſh was eſtimated to contain 2000 acres.

CAMPTON, anciently called CAMELTON, is a ſmall village in the hundred of Clifton, about a mile from Shefford. The manor of Camelton-cum-Shefford was, at a remote period, in the noble family of Liſle[z]. Sir John de Liſle, who died ſeiſed of it in 1356, was one of the original knights companions of the garter. Theſe Liſles appear to have been a diſtinct family from the Liſles of Kingſton Liſle in Berkſhire[a], whoſe heireſs married into the noble family of Berkeley. It is probable, that on ſome attainder or failure of iſſue, their eſtates fell to the crown. The manor of Camelton-cum-Shefford became annexed to the honour of Ampthill; and as parcel of that honour was for many years on leaſe to the Bruces earls of Elgin and Ayleſbury; the leaſe is now veſted in the Duke of Bedford, whoſe anceſtor purchaſed it of the earl of Ayleſbury in 1738.

The ſite of the manor of Campton was granted in 1548 to Sir Thomas Palmer[b]. The capital manſion on it became the property and ſeat of the Ventris family. Sir Charles Ventris, in the year 1645, very narrowly eſcaped aſſaſſination at this houſe. The circumſtance is recorded in the following inſcription, ſtill preſerved on a pannel, which having received the contents of a muſket-ſhot has never been repaired.

"In the year 1645, Sir Charles Ventris knight banneret, created by king Charles for his bravery in the civil wars, was (in the night time) by Oliver's party, ſhot at, as he was walking in this room, but happily miſſed him." This houſe and the eſtate belonging to it were purchaſed of Sir Charles Ventris Field knight, repreſentative of the Ventris family, by Sir George Oſborn bart. of Chickſand. The houſe is now occupied as a ſchool.

[y] Cole's Eſcheats, Brit. Muſ. [z] Eſch. Edw. I.—Edw. III. [a] Dugdale's Baronage.
[b] Pat. 2. Edw. VI.

In

In the parish church is a *Columbarium* for the Osborn family; and in the aisle, above, are the monuments of Sir John and Sir Peter Osborn (successively lord treasurers remembrancers) put up in 1653, by Henry Osborn, younger son of Sir Peter, afterwards Sir Henry Osborn knt. and one of the commissioners of the navy. The rectory of Campton-cum-Shefford is in the patronage of Sir George Osborn bart. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1797, when an allotment of land, not exceeding 100 acres, was given to the rector in part of compensation for his interest in the tithes, and a corn-rent charged on lands belonging to Sir George Osborn for the remainder.

*Shefford*, a post-town 10 miles from Bedford on the road to London, is a chapelry within this parish, and gives name to the deanery, in which it is situated. It lies between two brooks, which unite their streams not far from the town, and fall into the Ivel. Till of late years Shefford had a market on Fridays. It has still four fairs, held on the 23d of January, Easter Monday, the 19th of May, and the 10th of October; the two first are considerable marts for sheep and cows; the last, which is now a holiday-fair, was granted in the reign of Edward II. to Robert de Lisle, and originally lasted for six days. The number of houses in the town, according to the returns made to parliament in 1801, under the Population Act, was 90, of inhabitants 474. The chapel is a small mean building: it may be considered, perhaps, as some excuse for its present state, that the inhabitants are not only bound to repair their chapel, but to contribute also to the repairs of the mother church. They have distinct officers and maintain their own poor. The Roman Catholics have a chapel in the town, endowed with an annual stipend left in trust for that purpose; Sir John Throckmorton being the present trustee. Robert Lucas, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, bequeathed some houses and lands for the purpose of keeping in repair the bridges, roads, and causeways, in the town of Shefford; the remainder to be given to the poor.

CARDINGTON, a very neat village, about 2½ miles south-east of Bedford, is in the hundred of Wixamtree. The manor belonged to the Beauchamps, and was parcel of their barony of Bedford. After the death of the last heir male of that family it became divided, and seems to have formed separate manors, which passed to the families of Munchensi, Wake, Pigott, Botetort, Latimer, and Nevil[c]. James Gascoigne, son of the celebrated Chief Justice by his second wife, settled at Cardington in the reign of Henry VI. and became possessed of a manor, which seems to have been the principal manor, by marrying the heiress of Pigott; his grand-

[c] Esch. Edw. I.—Ed. IV.

son,

ſon, Sir William, who twice ſerved the office of ſheriff of the counties of Bedford and Buckingham, was comptroller of the houſehold to Cardinal Wolſey. On each ſide of the altar in Cardington church is a monument with an open arch, in the Gothic ſtyle, but of no very ancient date. That on the ſouth ſide is in memory of one of the Gaſcoignes, perhaps Sir William Gaſcoigne, grandfather of John Gaſcoigne, the laſt heir male of the family: the other is the monument of Sir Gerrard Hervey, of the Thurleigh family, who died in 1638. This Sir Gerrard, who was knighted by the Earl of Eſſex for his bravery at the ſiege of Cadiz, he being the firſt man who entered the town [d], poſſeſſed a temporary intereſt in the manor of Cardington, of which in his epitaph he is called Lord, by marrying one of the co-heireſſes of John Gaſcoigne. The manor afterwards became the property of Sir George Blundell, who married the other co-heireſs. George Blundell eſq. of Cardington manor, ſerved the office of ſheriff in 1731. The manor was purchaſed of his repreſentatives by the late Mr. Whitbread, and is now the property of his ſon Samuel Whitbread eſq. M. P. who has the manor alſo of Cardington-Cotton-end, which, it is probable, belonged anciently to ſome of the co-heirs of the Beauchamps: in the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was in the families of Tamworth and Colby. The late Mr. Whitbread purchaſed it of the Rev. Mr. Bedford, who inherited under the will of his grandfather's widow.

The manor of *Fenlake* or *Fenlake-Barns* is alſo the property of Mr. Whitbread, who occaſionally reſides at the manor-houſe called the Barns.

In the pariſh church of Cardington, is a tablet in memory of the celebrated John Howard, who fell a victim to his exertions in the cauſe of philanthropy, being ſeized with the plague at Cherſon in Tartary, where he died January 21, 1794. He reſided for ſome years at Cardington, in a houſe near the church-yard, and in 1773 ſerved the office of ſheriff for the county. The late Samuel Whitbread eſq. whoſe name ſtands high in the liſt of thoſe who have been diſtinguiſhed for works of benevolence and public utility, has a very ſplendid monument to his memory in Cardington church. It was put up in 1799, being the laſt work of the deceaſed ſtatuary Bacon, and eſteemed one of his beſt. The principal figure repreſents Mr. Whitbread as a dying man, ſupported by religion, who points to the glories of heaven: benevolence is weeping at his feet. There are ſome other monuments of the Whitbread family, who firſt ſettled at Cardington in 1650, and memorials of the Blundells of whom the late Mr. Whitbread purchaſed the manor.

The great tithes of Cardington were appropriated to the priory of Newenham, and are now veſted in the maſter and ſcholars of Trinity College in Cambridge,

[d] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees, Brit. Muſ.

under whom Mr. Whitbread is leſſee. The college preſents to the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1802: the lands were not exonerated from tithes. The pariſh was then computed to contain 3000 acres.

CARLTON, a village on the borders of Buckinghamſhire, about a mile from Harold, is in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham. The manor belonged at an early period to the family of Pabenham [e], who had large poſſeſſions in this county. In the year 1313, John de Pabenham had a licence to impark his woods in this pariſh and Harold, being within the King's foreſt [f]. The manor was afterwards in the family of Vaux. On the attainder of William Lord Vaux, it was granted by King Edward IV. to Ralph Haſtings [g], whoſe daughter and heir married Sir John Dyve. It has been for a conſiderable time in the family of Alſton, and is now the property of Thomas Alſton eſq.

The following epitaph in the pariſh church, records a very remarkable inſtance of long incumbency. "To the memory of Mr. Thomas Wills, who lived parſon of Carlton and Chellington about threeſcore and ten years. He died the ſecond of Auguſt 1642, aged above an hundred." The rectories of Carlton and Chillington, which were conſolidated by act of parliament in 1769, are in the patronage of Lord Hampden.

CHALGRAVE, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Dunſtaple, is a village about a mile from Toddington. A manor in Chalgrave was held under the Beauchamps, in the 12th century, by the family of Loring [h]. Sir Nigel or Neale Loring, who was knighted by King Edward III. for his bravery in a ſea-fight at Sluys in 1340, who attended that monarch in his glorious campaign in France, in the year 1359, and was one of the knights companions of the garter at the original inſtitution of that order [i], retired to ſpend his latter days at Chalgrave, where, in 1365, he had the royal licence to incloſe a park [k]. This Sir Neale Loring was founder of a chantry in Chalgrave church. Two ancient altar tombs (one on each ſide the nave), with effigies in ſtone of knights in armour with mail gorgets, have been ſuppoſed to belong to ſome of this family; but it muſt be obſerved, that none of the ſhields, of which there are ſeveral on the tombs, exhibit the arms of Loring. This manor was afterwards in the Broughtons, and paſſed by heirs female to the Cheneys and Wentworths. It is now veſted in the truſtees of their repreſentative, the late Rt. Hon. Thomas Conolly [l].

[e] Eſch. H. III.—Edw. III. [f] Pat. 6 Edw. II. [g] Pat. 4 Edw. II. [h] Chron. Dunſt.
[i] Aſhmole's Inſtitution of the Garter. [k] Cart. 39 & 40 Ed. III.
[l] See the deſcent more particularly deſcribed in Toddington.

The

The mercers' company have alſo a manor in this pariſh, and Richard Gilpin eſq. of Hockliffe has the manor of *Wingfield* (a hamlet of Chalgrave), which has been a conſiderable time in his family.

The church was appropriated, in the 12th century, to the priory of Dunſtaple, by Roſe Loring, with conſent of Simon de Beauchamp, the lord paramount [m]. The rectory now belongs to Trinity-Hall in Cambridge. Mr. Gilpin is patron of the vicarage. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1797, when allotments of land were given in lieu of the rectorial and vicarial tithes. The number of acres in the pariſh was then eſtimated to be about 1780.

*Tebworth*, a conſiderable hamlet in this pariſh, had formerly a chapel endowed with 36 acres of land. The inhabitants in 1277 endeavoured, but without ſucceſs, to oblige the prior and convent of Dunſtaple, in whom the rectory and advowſon of Chalgrave were then veſted, and who were in poſſeſſion of the lands which formed the endowment, to provide a chaplain to celebrate divine ſervice in Tebworth chapel [n]. There have been no remains of this chapel within the memory of man.

CHICKSAND, an extraparochial place in the hundred of Clifton, about a mile from Shefford, was the ſite of a priory, founded about the year 1150, by Pain de Beauchamp and Roeſe his wife, relict of Geffrey de Mandeville, founder of Walden Abbey, for nuns and canons of the order of St. Gilbert of Sempringham [o]. So anxious was this good lady to promote the intereſts of her favourite convent, that when her ſon Geffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Eſſex, whoſe patronage and benefactions ſhe had in vain endeavoured to induce him to transfer from his father's monaſtery of Walden to Chickſand, died at Cheſter, ſhe being then reſiding at this convent with her nuns, ſent an armed troop to intercept his corpſe on its way to Walden for interment, and forcibly conveyed it to be buried at Chickſand, to which monaſtery ſhe hoped his kindred would by that means be induced to become benefactors; but her intention being made known to the knights, who were to attend the body, they provided themſelves with a ſufficient guard, and with their ſwords drawn, conveyed it ſafe to Walden [p]. Simon de Beauchamp, ſon of Pain, gave the church of Chickſand to the nuns there, and John Blondel, in 1317, the manor [q]. The priory was diſſolved in 1538, when its clear yearly value was eſtimated at 212l. 3s. 5½d. [r]. The ſite was granted in 1539 to R. Snow, of whoſe family it was purchaſed, about the year 1600 [s], by Sir John Oſborn

[m] Chron. Dunſt. [n] Ibid. [o] Tanner. [p] Dugdale's Baronage. [q] Tanner. [r] Ibid.
[s] From the information of Sir George Oſborn.

knt. Lord Treaſurer's Remembrancer, whoſe grandſon of the ſame name was created a baronet in 1660.

Chickſand priory is now the property and ſeat of General Sir George Oſborn bart. It retains much of the monaſtic appearance, and exhibits conſiderable remains of the conventual buildings. The ſouth and eaſt fronts were either rebuilt or altered about the middle of the laſt century by Ware the architect. Two ſides of the cloiſters are nearly entire. Sir George Oſborn has fitted up the windows with ancient ſtained glaſs, and has depoſited, in the cloiſters, various antiquities, which have no immediate connection with the place, excepting two ancient tombs, dug up near the priory. In one of the walls is placed the tomb of an abbot of Pipwell, brought from the ſite of that monaſtery in Northamptonſhire. A part of the building, now uſed as a chapel, and ſome adjoining offices, have ſtone roofs, vaulted and groined. The quadrangle within the cloiſters is 64 feet by 51 feet 6 inches.

Chickſand-houſe contains ſome valuable portraits, particularly of the Oſborn family: the moſt remarkable of which are thoſe of Peter Oſborn, Privy Purſe to Edward VI. and one of the commiſſioners for eccleſiaſtical affairs in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; Sir Peter Oſborn, governor of Jerſey; Francis Oſborn, a younger ſon of Sir John Oſborn knt. an ingenious and entertaining writer, author of Advice to a Son, and Eſſays on King James and King Charles; Col. Henry Oſborn, killed at the battle of Naſeby; and Henry Oſborn, a diſtinguiſhed naval officer, who died in 1771, vice-admiral of Great Britain. Among the portraits, not connected with the family are, Sir Philip Warwick and his lady; a fine whole length of Edward VI. by Holbein; and a very valuable portrait of Oliver Cromwell, by Sir Peter Lely. It is a fine picture, and exhibits the ſtrong features of his countenance, with all the roughneſſes and warts, which, we are told, he charged the artiſt by no means to omit[1]. It was taken after he was Protector, and is ſaid to have been a preſent to Sir John Danvers, one of the Judges of King Charles I., whoſe daughter married Sir John Oſborn the firſt baronet.

Sir George Oſborn has built a bed-chamber in imitation of the chapter-houſe at Peterborough. In this room is a ſtate-bed which belonged to King James I. as appears from the initials I. A. with the crown. The traditionary account of it is, that it was the bed on which the Pretender was born, and that, upon that occaſion, it became a perquiſite of the chamberlain, by whom it was given to the Oſborn family.

CHILLINGTON, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, is a ſmall village ſcarcely a mile from Harold. The manor was anciently parcel of the barony

[1] See Walpole's Anecdotes of Painting, Vol. iii. p. 17.

of

of Trally; and, for a great length of time, had the ſame proprietors as Carlton. On the attainder of Lord Vaux, both theſe manors were granted to Ralph Haſtings. The manor of Chillington has been for a conſiderable time in the noble family of Trevor, and is now the property of Lord Viſcount Hampden. The church is ſituated at a diſtance from the village, on a hill which commands a fine view of Odell caſtle, Harold, and the river Ouſe. The rectories of Carlton and Chillington were conſolidated in 1769. Lord Hampden is patron.

CLAPHAM, in the hundred of Stodden, gives name to the deanery[u] in which it is ſituated. It is a ſmall village, two miles from Bedford, on the road to Higham-Ferrers. The manor belonged ſucceſſively to the families of Spigurnell, Vaux, and Fitzjeffry[v]. In 1648 the manor-houſe, being then a ſeat of Sir Philip Warwick, was for ſeveral months the priſon of the learned and pious Dr. Hammond[w]. This manor is now the property of the Earl of Aſhburnham, whoſe great uncle, William Lord Aſhburnham, became poſſeſſed of it by marriage with the daughter and heir of Thomas Taylor eſq.[x] The manor-houſe has been improperly deſcribed as a ſeat of the Earl of Aſhburnham; it has been for many years a farm-houſe. Lord Aſhburnham is patron of the vicarage, and impropriator of the great tithes which belonged to the priory of Caldwell. Clapham was formerly a chapelry of Oakly; and it is ſingular, that although it has long been a diſtinct pariſh, the inhabitants ſtill bury their dead there.

CLIFTON, about one mile and a half eaſt of Shefford, gives name to the hundred in which it ſtands. The manor, on the death of Sir Michael Fiſher in 1549, without ſurviving male iſſue, came to the St. Johns, by marriage with his daughter and heir[y]. It is now, by a late purchaſe, the property of Simpſon Anderſon eſq. In the north aiſle of the pariſh church is an altar-tomb, in memory of Sir Michael Fiſher: the ſides are richly ornamented with tabernacle work. Near it is the tomb of his ſon, who died without iſſue in his father's life-time. Mrs. Olivier, mother of the preſent incumbent, is patroneſs of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Shefford.

CLOPHILL, in the hundred and deanery of Flitt, is a populous village, about three miles and a half weſt of Shefford. The manor belonged to the Barons de Albini; whoſe caſtle, the ſeat of their barony, was at Cainhoe in this pariſh[z]. It appears to have been a place of conſiderable ſtrength. The keep, which is ſtill called the

[u] The ancient orthography (Clopham) is retained in the name of the deanery.
[v] Eſch. Edw. II. Edw. III. and Edw. IV. [w] Ant. Wood. [x] Collins.
[y] Cole's Eſcheats, Brit. Muſ. [z] Dugdale's Baronage.

Caſtlehill,

Caſtlehill, is lofty, and overgrown with coppice-wood. After the extinction of the family of Albini, it is probable that the manor of Clophill, or Cainhoe, was ſold by the co-heirs. It paſſed through the families of Lacy, Nowers, and Norton[a]: after which it came to the Greys, earls of Kent; and is now the property of their repreſentative the Right Honourable Lady Lucas.

Robert de Albini, founder of the priory of Beaulieu, in Hertfordſhire, gave an eſtate in the pariſh of Clophill, or Cainhoe, to the monks there[b]. His charter mentions a monaſtery at Clophill[c], of which nothing farther is known. It is probable that it was a cell to St. Alban's, and was of ſhort duration. After the reformation, Sir Michael Fiſher became poſſeſſed of the eſtate which had belonged to the monks of Beaulieu, and had acquired the name of the manor of Clophill-Hall. His grand-daughter and heir married the firſt Lord St. John of Bletſoe[d]. This eſtate has been held for a conſiderable time with the principal manor of Clophill, and is now the property of Lady Lucas.

The manor of *Beadlow*, partly in this pariſh, was for many years in the Charnock family; and is now veſted in their repreſentatives the Herveys.

The pariſh church ſtands on a hill, at a conſiderable diſtance from any part of the village. The great tithes of this pariſh were appropriated to the abbey of St. Alban's[e] about the year 1097[f]. They are now annexed to the vicarage by the benefaction of one of the earls of Kent. Lady Lucas has the patronage.

Colmworth, a village in the hundred of Barford and deanery of Eaton, is about eight miles N. E. of Bedford. The monaſtery of St. Neot's had conſiderable eſtates in this pariſh, which were granted in 1542 to Sir Richard Williams, *alias* Cromwell. Sir Edward Montagu, Lord Chief Juſtice of the Common Pleas, died ſeiſed of the manor of Colmworth in 1557[g]. It had been for many years in the family of Ray previouſly to 1797, when it was purchaſed by the preſent proprietor the Reverend Leonard Towne.

The pariſh church is a handſome Gothic ſtructure, with a lofty ſpire, which is a conſpicuous object for ſeveral miles round. In this church is the tomb of Eleanor wife of Sir Gerard Braybroke, daughter and heir of Aylmer Lord St. Amand, who had large poſſeſſions in this county in the fourteenth century; and a very ſumptuous monument, erected in 1641 by Lady Dyer, in memory of her deceaſed huſband Sir William Dyer knt. The inſcription quaintly informs us, that "they multiplied

[a] Eſch. Edw. I. Edw. II. and Edw. III. [b] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [c] The words of the charter are, "Nec non manſio quædam de dominio domini juxta monaſterium de Clophelle quam monachi ſibi-ipſis ædificent." [d] Cole's Eſcheats, Brit. Muſ. [e] The *Liber Regis* erroneouſly ſays to Chickſand. [f] Lives of the Abbots of St. Alban's. [g] Cole's Eſcheats.

themſelves

themſelves into ſeven children," one of whom was Sir Ludowick Dyer, created a baronet in 1626. The following is a ſpecimen of the poetry:

"My deareſt duſt, could not thy haſty day
Afford thy drowſy patience leave to ſtay
One hour longer, ſo that we might either
Have ſat up, or gone to-bed together:
But ſince thy finiſh'd labour hath poſſeſs'd
Thy weary limbs with early reſt,
Enjoy it ſweetly, and thy widowe bride
Shall ſoon repoſe her by thy ſlumbering ſide;
Whoſe buſineſs now is only to prepare
My nightly dreſs, and call to prayer.
Mine eyes wax heavy, and the day grows old,
The dew falls thick, my blood grows cold:
Draw, draw the cloſed curtains, and make room,
My dear, my deareſt duſt, I come, I come."

John Hele eſq. is patron of the rectory of Colmworth, having purchaſed the advowſon of the Hillerſdons of Elſtow.

Cople, in the hundred of Wixamtree, is a ſmall village about four miles and a half from Bedford. The Duke of Bedford has the manor of Cople, together with the manors of Woodend, Wiggen, Rolands, and Howcots, all in this pariſh. They were purchaſed in 1774, of the Duke of Marlborough, by John, Duke of Bedford. Cople had been ſucceſſively in the Beauchamps, Mowbrays, and Goſtwicks[h]; Woodend for many years in the Lukes; Rolands belonged anciently to a family of that name: it had been in the Spencer family before 1642[i].

In the pariſh church are tombs with braſs figures of the families of Launcelyn, Roland, and Gray. The Launcelyns were benefactors towards the building of the church, as appears by their arms cut in ſtone on one of the pillars. In the chancel are two altar tombs, with effigies in braſs, in memory of Sir Walter Luke, juſtice of the common pleas, who died in 1544; and Nicholas Luke, baron of the exchequer, who died in 1563. Sir Walter's Lady was Anne Launcelyn, nurſe to King Henry VIII.[k] The Lukes reſided at Woodend in this pariſh, by moſt writers miſtaken for a place of the ſame name near Toddington. Sir Oliver Luke of Woodend and his ſon Sir Samuel were both in the ſervice of the parliament during the civil wars; the latter was ſcout-maſter for Bedfordſhire and ſome adjoining counties[l]. His name has attained much celebrity, as the ſuppoſed original of Butler's Hudibras. It is certain that the poet lived ſome time in his houſe, acting in the capacity of his

[h] Cole's Eſcheats, Brit. Muſ. [i] Ibid. [k] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees, Brit. Muſ.
[l] Myſteries of the Good Old Cauſe.

clerk;

clerk; and it is obſervable, that in his poem of Dunſtaple Downs, he expreſsly calls Sir Samuel Luke, Sir Hudibras [m]. Sir Samuel was buried at Cople, in 1670. His deſcendants continued at Woodend, now a farm-houſe, till the death of George Luke, the laſt of the family, in 1732.

The great tithes of Cople were given to the priory of Chickſand, by Simon de Beauchamp [n]; the impropriate rectory and the advowſon of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford, are now veſted in Chriſt-church college, Oxford. The Duke of Bedford is leſſee of the rectory.

CRANFIELD, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke and deanery of Flitt, is a village on the borders of Buckinghamſhire, about nine miles ſouth-weſt of Bedford. The manor was given to the monks of Ramſey by Ailwin Niger, who died in 998 [o]. It was granted in 1621 to Sir Lionel Cranfield, who was the ſame year created a baron, taking his title from this place. In 1672, it became the property of the Monoux family; and in 1729, was purchaſed of them by Wriotheſley, Duke of Bedford, from whom it deſcended to the preſent Duke. The manor of Waſhingleys in this pariſh was in the Leighs of Stoneleigh, from whom it paſſed, by purchaſe, to the family of Field, and from them, by female heirs, to the Bakers and Colemans, of whom it was inherited by the preſent proprietor, Mr. Theed Pearſe of Bedford. There was anciently a gild or brotherhood in the church of Cranfield, and lands given for a *drinking*, and for the maintenance of a lamp. The Rev. George Davies, the preſent incumbent, is patron of the rectory.

DEAN is a ſmall village in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, ſituated in the north part of the county, on the borders of Northamptonſhire and Huntingdonſhire, about four miles from Kimbolton. The manor of Over or Upper Dean, a hamlet in this pariſh, was in the Cheney family for ſeveral generations [p]. The priory of Huntingdon had another manor, which perhaps was that of Lower or Nether Dean. They are now both the property of Lord St. John, and have been a conſiderable time in his family. In the church is an altar-tomb with the effigies in braſs, in very fair preſervation, of Sir Thomas Barker, prebendary of the the collegiate church of St. Mary in Shrewſbury, and rector of Dean, who died in 1501. The church of Dean was given by Alice de Clermont, counteſs of Pembroke, to the knights hoſpitallers [q], who were patrons of the rectory till the reformation. King Henry VIII. gave the rectory of Dean to the church of Wor-

[m] See the ſubject diſcuſſed in Biograph. Brit. new edit. Vol. iii. p. 86, 87. in the notes.
[n] Dugdale's Baronage. [o] Dugdale's Monaſticon.
[p] See Nom. Villarum, No. 1316. in Brit. Muſ. No. 6281. and Eſch. Hen. VI.
[q] Dugdale's Monaſticon.

ceſter

ceſter, in 1547, ſince which time the great tithes have been veſted in the dean and chapter, who appoint a curate. Sir John Smith bart. of Sidling in Dorſetſhire is leſſee under the impropriators. Over and Nether-Dean have been incloſed, by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1800, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the impropriators in lieu of tithes.

Dean is ſaid to have been the birth-place of Francis Dillingham, one of the tranſlators of the Bible[t]: the family of Dillingham appears to have been very numerous in this pariſh, but no record of his birth appears in the regiſter.

DUNSTAPLE, in the hundred of Manſhead and in the deanery to which it gives name, is a market town on the great road to Cheſter and Holyhead, 33 miles from London. Its origin is attributed to the provident care of king Henry I. who, finding that this neighbourhood, through which a much frequented road towards the north paſſed, was much infeſted by robbers, ordered the woods to be cut down and grubbed up, and having built a royal manſion for his own reſidence, called Kingſbury, encouraged ſome of his ſubjects to ſettle near him, by granting them lands at a ſmall rent, a market, and various liberties and privileges[r]. The monkiſh legends add, that the town took its name from Dun or Dunning, the chief of the robbers. Modern etymologiſts have ſuppoſed, with greater probability, that it was called Dunſtaple from its market or ſtaple on the downs. *Duna* or *Dunum* in barbarous Latin, is a hill or down, and frequently occurs in the chronicle of Dunſtaple, in the deſcription of lands in this neighbourhood, as either *infra* or *ſuper Dunam*.

The king kept the new town in his own hands till about the year 1131, when he beſtowed it, with all its rights and privileges, on a priory of Black Canons, which he had founded near the manſion, where he occaſionally reſided, and where, in 1123, he had kept his Chriſtmas with great ſplendour, receiving an embaſſy from the earl of Anjou[s]. This palace he reſerved in his own hands, becauſe, as yet, there were no apartments in the convent fit for his reception[t]. The king kept his Chriſtmas at Dunſtaple again in 1132[u], as did his ſucceſſor king Stephen in 1137[w]. In 1154, the war being terminated, a friendly meeting took place at Dunſtaple, between Stephen and Henry duke of Normandy, who ſucceeded him on the throne[x]. In 1204, king John gave his palace and gardens, on the ſite of which is now a farm-houſe on the road to Luton, near Mrs. Marſh's hoſpital, to the prior and convent[y], who, upon occaſion of all future royal viſits, accommodated the monarch and his ſuite within their own walls[z]. In 1213, the town was deſtroyed by fire. In 1214, a great ſynod was held at the priory[a]. In 1215,

[r] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [s] Sax. Chron. [t] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [u] Holinſhed.
[w] J. Bromton inter Decem Scriptores, vol. i. 1343. [x] Holinſhed.
[y] Dugdale's Monaſticon, vol. ii. [z] Chron. Dunſt. [a] Ibid.

king John lay at Dunſtaple, on his journey towards the north [a]. In 1217, Lewis the Dauphin, with the Engliſh barons, who were in arms againſt the king, halted for a night in this town [b]. In 1244, a great number of diſcontented barons and knights aſſembled at Dunſtaple, and Luton, under pretence of holding a tournament, although their meeting was in reality for political purpoſes. The tournament was prohibited by the royal mandate, to which they yielded obedience, but gave a convincing proof of their formidable power, by ſending Sir Fulk Fitzwarren to the pope's nuncio, whoſe proceedings had given great umbrage to the Engliſh, with a peremptory order, in the name of the barons and knights, aſſembled at Dunſtaple and Luton, that he ſhould inſtantly quit the kingdom; an order which the nuncio, finding the king's authority inſufficient to protect him, was obliged to obey [c]. It appears by the chronicle of Dunſtaple, that king Henry III. frequently honoured the convent with his preſence. In 1247, he was there with his queen, prince Edward and the princeſs Margaret; on which occaſion the prior preſented their majeſties with a gilt cup, and the prince and princeſs with a gold buckle each. In 1265, the king and queen, with cardinal Ottoboni the pope's legate, and Simon Montford, earl of Leiceſter, made ſome ſtay at Dunſtaple. In 1276, ſome of the king's falconers, who were lodged in the priory, having had an affray with the chaplains and the prior's ſervants, the king came in perſon to try the matter, and ſummoned a jury of 36 men, out of two hundreds, unconnected with the convent or the town. It appeared, that the falconers had begun the affray, and killed one of the chaplains. When the corpſe of queen Eleanor was depoſited one night at the priory of Dunſtaple, in 1290, two bawdekyns or precious cloths were given to the convent, and 120 pounds weight of wax. As it paſſed through the town, the bier ſtopped in the middle of the market-place whilſt the chancellor and nobility marked out a proper ſpot for the erection of a croſs, the prior aſſiſting at the ceremony, and ſprinkling the ground with holy-water. This croſs was demoliſhed during the civil wars, probably by the ſoldiers of the earl of Eſſex, who appear to have been quartered at Dunſtaple in 1643 [d]. In 1341, king Edward III. with his queen were preſent at a grand tournament held at Dunſtaple [e]. No mention has been found of any other royal viſits to this town, excepting that king Henry VI. was there in 1457 [f], and queen Elizabeth, on her progreſs in 1572 [g].

The priors of Dunſtaple enjoyed very extenſive liberties and privileges. They had the power of life and death, and ſat with the king's juſtices itinerant, who, on their circuit, always came to Dunſtaple for the purpoſe of trying ſuch offences as had been committed within the juriſdiction of the town. They had more than one

[a] Holinſhed. [b] M. Paris. [c] Holinſhed. [d] Pariſh Regiſter. [e] Holinſhed. [f] Ibid.
[g] Queen Elizabeth's Progreſſes.

gaol,

gaol, for it appears by the chronicle of the priory, that their *principal* gaol was rebuilt in 1295; and they had a gallows at a place without the town, called Edeſcote. During the inſurrections, in the reign of Richard II. in 1371, the townſmen exacted of the prior a charter of liberties, but it was cancelled afterwards, as having been extorted by force[h].

The revenues of the priory, at its diſſolution, were eſtimated at 344l. 13s. 3d. clear yearly value. The laſt prior was Gervaſe Markham, who took an active part in the proceedings relative to the divorce between king Henry VIII. and Catharine of Arragon, his queen. The commiſſioners ſat at Dunſtaple priory, and the ſentence of divorce was pronounced by archbiſhop Cranmer, on the 23d of May 1533, in the chapel of our lady there[i]. Prior Markham, after the diſſolution of his convent, had a penſion of 60l. *per annum*. He died in the month of September 1561, and was buried at Dunſtaple, as appears by the pariſh regiſter. The ſite of the priory, which was granted in 1554 to Dr. Leonard Chamberlayne, is now the property and reſidence of Col. Maddiſon. The only remains of the conventual buildings (excepting what is now the pariſh church), are ſome rooms with vaulted and groined ſtone roofs; one of them has been converted into a parlour.

The preſent pariſh church, which contains only the nave of the conventual church, exhibits various ſtyles of architecture. The inſide is chiefly Norman, and undoubtedly part of the original ſtructure. The ſtone gallery at the weſt end, now hid by the organ-loft, has pointed arches; the windows are of a much later date. The weſt front is very richly decorated with niches of the early Gothic architecture. The great weſtern door has a fine ſemicircular arch, which has been very richly ornamented with foliage, groteſque heads, &c. neatly cut in Totternhoe ſtone, now much mutilated. It is ſaid that king Henry VIII. intended to eſtabliſh a cathedral at Dunſtaple, of which Dr. Day was to be the firſt biſhop; and that when the deſign was laid aſide, a great part of the conventual church was pulled down[k].

In the pariſh church of Dunſtaple are ſeveral memorials of the families of Dickenſon, Aynſcombe, Marſh, and Chew, great benefactors to the town. The ſtory of an epitaph on a woman who had 19 children at five births, has been ſufficiently exploded; it aroſe from a miſconſtruction of the quaint manner in which the number 19 was expreſſed in Latin verſe[l]. The braſs plate on which this epitaph was inſcribed has been removed; it has been frequently printed.

Over the altar is a large painting of the Lord's ſupper by Sir James Thornhill, given to the pariſh by Mrs. Cart and Mrs. Aſhton in 1720. In the church of Dun-

[h] Chron. Dunſt. [i] Strype's Memorials of archbiſhop Cranmer, and Herbert's Life of Hen. VIII.
[k] Willis's Mitred Abbies.
[l] "Ter tres, bis quinos hæc natos fertur habere
Per ſponſos binos."

ſtaple was a fraternity of St. John the Baptiſt. A very richly embroidered altar-cloth, with portraits of the family of Fayrey, and a figure of St. John the Baptiſt, ſaid to have been given to this fraternity by Henry Fayrey, who died in 1516, is in the poſſeſſion of John Miller eſq. of Bedford. It was ſome years ago occaſionally uſed as a funeral pall at Dunſtaple, by the permiſſion of Mr. Miller's family, who then reſided there. The brotherhood-houſe belonged to the Wingate family in 1642 [m].

The friars preachers, or black friars, eſtabliſhed a convent of their order at Dunſtaple in 1259, ſorely againſt the will of the prior and canons [n]; but the friars being patronized by the court, it was in vain for them to reſiſt. In a few years they were ſo far reconciled to their new neighbours, that the prior condeſcended to become their gueſt [o]. The yearly revenue of the friars, when their convent was ſuppreſſed, amounted only to 4l. 18s. 4d. The ſite was granted to Sir William Herbert; it is ſuppoſed to have been in a field of Mrs. Foſſey's near her houſe, which is ſituated weſt of the pond, in the South-ſtreet of Dunſtaple.

There was alſo at this place a houſe or hoſpital for lepers, belonging to the prior and canons of Dunſtaple, who appointed the warden. It exiſted as early as the beginning of the thirteenth century [p].

King Henry I. is ſaid to have founded ſchools at Dunſtaple. It appears by the chronicle of the convent, that in 1224, diſputes ran ſo high between the ſcholars and the townſmen, that many were wounded on both ſides, and ſome mortally [q].

The manor of Dunſtaple, which was given by king Henry I. to the prior and convent, was, after the reformation, annexed to the honour of Ampthill, and is now held, on leaſe under the crown, as parcel of that honour, by the Duke of Bedford.

The charter of king Henry I. granted two markets to this town, and a fair, at the feſtival of St. Peter, to whom the convent was dedicated. The markets were held on Sundays [r] and Wedneſdays. King John granted another fair at the feſtival of St. Fremund. The chronicle of the priory mentions a great loſs which the market at Dunſtaple ſuſtained in 1294, by the long ſtay of prince Edward at Langley, his kitchen conſuming more than 200 meſſes a-day, and his ſervants taking up all the cheeſe, eggs, and other commodities which they could find in the market, and even from the tradeſmen's houſes, and paying for nothing. There is now only one market held on Wedneſdays, and four fairs, Aſh Wedneſday, May 22, Auguſt 12, and November 12; all fairs of buſineſs, chiefly for the ſale of horſes, cows, and ſheep. The number of houſes in the pariſh, according to the returns made under the Population Act, in 1801, was 243, that of inhabitants 1296.

[m] Cole's Eſcheats, Brit. Muſ. [n] Chron. Dunſt. [o] Ibid. [p] Ibid. [q] Ibid.

[r] It was not unuſual in ancient times to hold markets and fairs on Sundays and other great feſtivals. See the account of Thatcham and Wallingford in Berkſhire.

Dunſtaple

Dunſtaple had ſummons to ſend members to parliament in the reign of Henry II.[s] The town, which is governed by four conſtables, retains but few of the privileges which the townſmen formerly enjoyed under the charter of king Henry I. The aſſizes for the county were held at Dunſtaple in 1607[t]. The frequent communication between this town and London, occaſioned the plague to be very fatal here in 1603 and 1625; the regiſter of burials for the year 1665 is imperfect.

Edward VI. in 1552, granted the rectory and advowſon of Dunſtaple to the dean and canons of Windſor[u]. It is probable that the grant was reſumed, the rectory being now in the patronage of the crown.

Mrs. Frances Aſhton, Mrs. Jane Cart, and Mr. Thomas Aynſcombe, in purſuance of the intention of their relation, Mr. William Chew, who died in 1712, built and endowed a charity-ſchool in this town. By two indentures, bearing date 1724 and 1727, the ſchool is endowed with lands in Caddington, Luton, Houghton-Regis, Flamſted, Totternhoe, and Whipſnade. The maſter has a ſalary of 40l. *per annum* for teaching forty boys; and 37l. *per annum* is allowed for their clothing. The management of the charity is veſted in ſeven truſtees. If a ſufficient number of boys for the object of this charity ſhould not be found at Dunſtaple, they may be filled up from the pariſhes of Caddington, Kenſworth, Edleſborough, Houghton-Regis, or Luton. In conſequence of the increaſed rents of the eſtates, forty boys and fifteen girls are now clothed, educated, and apprenticed, by this charity.

Mrs. Cart and Mrs. Aſhton each founded an alms-houſe for ſix poor widows. Mrs. Aſhton, by her will bearing date 1727, left lands for the purpoſe of paying 6l. *per annum* each to the poor women in her alms-houſe, to buy them a gown, firing, and other neceſſaries. The remainder, after deducting for repairs, and paying ſome ſpecific charitable bequeſts, to be divided, in equal portions, between the ſix poor women.

Mrs. Blandina Marſh, in 1713, built neat houſes for the reſidence of ſix decayed maiden gentlewomen, which, by her benefaction, and that of another lady, are endowed with an income of about 180l. *per annum* for their ſupport.

Elkanah Settle, a well-known dramatiſt and political writer in the reign of Charles the Second, was born at Dunſtaple on the firſt of February 1647-8[w]. He was the antagoniſt of Dryden; and during the biaſs of party prejudice, there were not wanting thoſe who preferred his compoſitions to thoſe of his rival.

It may, perhaps, be thought worthy of remark, that the firſt attempt at theatrical repreſentation in this kingdom is ſuppoſed to have been at Dunſtaple, where the

[s] Willis's Notit. Parliament. [t] Note in the Regiſter at Houghton Conqueſt, by Mr. Archer.
[u] Tanner. [w] Pariſh Regiſter.

play

play of the miracles of St. Catherine was performed under the direction of Geoffrey, a ſecular prieſt, afterwards abbot of St. Alban's [x].

DUNTON, a village in the hundred of Biggleſwade and deanery of Shefford, is ſituated about four miles eaſt of Biggleſwade, on the borders of Hertfordſhire. The manor of Dunton, which had belonged to the Chamberleynes, and the manor of Joyes in Dunton, were granted, in 1475, to Lord Grey of Ruthin [y]. They are now, by the name of the manors of Goyes or Joyes, and Chamberleyneſbury, the property of Earl Spencer, and have been a conſiderable time in his family. King Edward the Confeſſor gave the monks of Waltham a manor in Milnho (now called Millow or Milhow) a hamlet of this pariſh [z]. Another manor, which at the time of the Norman Survey was part of the extenſive property of Walter Giffard, was, in later times, in the Enderbys, Goſtwicks, and Powleys [a]. This manor has been nearly two centuries in the Spencer family; and is now the property of Earl Spencer, who has alſo the impropriate rectory of this pariſh which belonged formerly to the priory of Holiwell, and is patron of the vicarage. The pariſh of Dunton has been incloſed under an act of parliament paſſed in 1797, when the number of acres in the pariſh was eſtimated at 2200.

EATON-BRAY, in the hundred of Manſhead, is a village about four miles from Dunſtaple. The manor of Eaton was given by king John to Ardulfus de Braci [b]. Not long afterwards it was in the Cantilupes, barons of Bergavenny, who built a caſtle there in 1221, which the chronicle of Dunſtaple repreſents as very injurious to that town. It paſſed in 1273, by a female heir, to the family of Zouche [c]. Katherine, relict of William Lord Zouche, died ſeiſed of it in 1471 [d]. It is ſuppoſed to have been forfeited by attainder, and to have been granted to Sir Reginald Bray in 1513, when he obtained a grant of the neighbouring pariſh of Toternhoe, which had been alſo in the families of Cantilupe and Zouche.

The family of Bray were of conſequence in the county at an early period. Thomas de Bray was knight of the ſhire in 1289, and Roger de Bray in 1312. When they ſettled at Eaton-Bray, to which they gave their name, does not appear; but it was long before they were poſſeſſed of the manor. Edmund Bray, grandfather of Sir Reginald, the faithful miniſter of king Henry VII. was deſcribed as of this place [e]; and it appears on record, that the pariſh was called Eaton-Bray in the reign of Edward III [f]. It is probable that the Brays held the manor under the Barons Cantilupe and Zouche. Sir Edmund Bray, nephew of Sir Reginald, was ſummoned to parliament in 1530

[x] See Bibliotheca Top. Brit. Bedfordſhire, p. 237, where is a reference to Warton's Hiſtory of Engliſh Poetry, vol. i. p. 236.

[y] Pat 14. Edw. IV. [z] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [a] Eſch. Hen. VII.—Hen. VIII.—Eliz. and Car. I. [b] Regiſter of the Priory of Dunſtaple in the Britiſh Muſeum. [c] Chron. Dunſt.

[d] Eſch. 11 Edw. IV. [e] Biograph. Brit. [f] Inq. ad q. dam. See alſo Harleian MSS. 5193. fol. 75.

as

as baron of Eaton-Bray. The title became extinct by the death of his ſon John Lord Bray without iſſue in 1557. The manor of Eaton-Bray paſſed to the poſterity of William Lord Sandys, who married the only child of John Bray, uncle of the firſt Lord Bray; and from them, by marriage, to the family of Sandys of Latimers, in Buckinghamſhire. Sir Edwin Sandys of Eaton-Bray died in 1608 [g]. The manor was purchaſed of his repreſentatives in 1623 by the Huxleys of Wyer-Hall in Middleſex [h]. It has ſince been in the family of Potter. In 1763 it was purchaſed of Thomas Potter eſq. by William Beckford eſq. alderman of London, and is now the property of his ſon. There are no remains of the caſtle, nor of the manſion of the Lords Bray. A houſe, which was built on the ſite about a century ago, has recently been pulled down.

In the chancel of the pariſh church is the monument of Jane, wife of Edmund Lord Bray, who died in 1558. In the ſouth aiſle is a fragment of ſtone-work, richly carved and ornamented with the royal arms, and the arms and device of Sir Reginald Bray. The great tithes of Eaton-Bray, which were formerly appropriated to the priory of Merton in Surrey, now belong, together with the advowſon of the vicarage, to Trinity College in Cambridge. Eaton-Bray is in the deanery of Dunſtaple.

EATON-SOCON, a village in the hundred of Barford, is a great thoroughfare on the north road, 55 miles from London. It gives name to a deanery. At this place was a caſtle, the ſeat of a branch of the Beauchamp family, who were barons of the realm from the reign of Henry II. to the year 1292, when Ralph de Beauchamp died ſeiſed of the manor of Eaton, held by baronial ſervice [i]. He left iſſue; but as his poſterity were not ſummoned to parliament, Dugdale diſcontinues the hiſtory of the family after his death. It is probable that the manor of Eaton paſſed by female heirs to the family of Vaux. Leland ſpeaks of the ruins of Eaton caſtle as belonging, in his time, to the Lord Vaux, whoſe deſcendant, Edward Lord Vaux, ſold it in 1624 to Rowland Squire: from his family, in 1689, it paſſed to the Aſhlys; and from them, in 1708, to the anceſtors of the duke of Bedford [k], who is the preſent proprietor. Another manor, belonging alſo to the duke of Bedford, was granted in 1563, to Thomas Beverley, being deſcribed as late parcel of the poſſeſſions of the diſſolved monaſtery of St. John of Jeruſalem [l]. In 1629 it paſſed from Sir Henry Moore to the family of Gery of Buſhmead, and in 1640 from them to the Squires; ſince which time it has been held with the principal manor of Eaton.

[g] MS. Diary of Thomas Archer, rector of Houghton Conqueſt. [h] Papers communicated by William Bray eſq. [i] Eſch. 21 Edw. I. [k] Duke of Bedford's Papers. [l] Ibid.

The

The manor of Eaton, or Goldingtons in Eaton, was part of the eſtate of Sir Michael Fiſher, who died in 1549, and paſſed by marriage to the St. Johns. It is probable that this is the ſame eſtate which (being then called the manor of Eaton or Eyton) was in the Gery family as early as the year 1635, and was ſold by them, in 1649, to Robert Dobbs. It has been ſince in the families of Kent, Brewer, Sibley, and Waller; and was purchaſed in 1782 of Mr. Joſeph Green by the preſent proprietor John Brickwood eſq.

The manor of *Wyboldſton* or *Wyboſton* in this pariſh, was, in the 13th century, in the family of Bathonian [n]; afterwards, for ſeveral generations, in that of Greyſtock. This manor is now the property of Thomas Whetham eſq. in whoſe family it has been, together with thoſe of Honeyden and Begry, for many years.

The priory of Biſmede or Buſhmead, in this pariſh, was founded in the reign of Henry II. by Oliver Beauchamp and his ſon Hugh. It was inhabited by Auſtin canons, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Its revenues, at the diſſolution of monaſteries, were eſtimated at 71l. 13s. 9½d. clear yearly value [o]. The ſite was granted in 1537 to Sir William Gaſcoigne, Comptroller of the Houſehold to Cardinal Wolſey. Sir John Gaſcoigne in 1545 conveyed it to Anthony Cocket; from whom, in 1552, it paſſed to William Gery eſq. [p] anceſtor of the late William Gery eſq. of Kimbolton. Buſhmead is now the property and ſeat of his ſon-in-law the Rev. Hugh Wade Gery, who has a cartulary of the priory very fairly written on vellum; and Buck's drawing of the conventual buildings, no part of which now remains, excepting the refectory, converted into a ſtable and offices.

Baſſmead, in this pariſh, was, in the reign of Henry VIII. the ſeat of Sir Thomas Wauton [q]. A branch of the family of Aſtrey afterwards ſettled themſelves there. After the death of the late Sir John Danvers, whoſe anceſtors had poſſeſſed it for ſeveral generations, it was put up to ſale, and is now the property of Thomas Smith eſq.

The windows of the pariſh church at Eaton were ornamented with ſtained glaſs, of which there are conſiderable remains in the north aiſle, repreſenting ſubjects from the legends of St. Nicholas and St. Etheldreda. Among the ancient diſburſements of the church, as ſtated in Bacon's *Liber Regis*, was 5s. *per annum* for ſtraw. The duke of Bedford is patron of the vicarage, and proprietor of the rectory which formerly belonged to the knights of St. John of Jeruſalem. The pariſh was incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1795, when an allotment of land was given to the impropriator in lieu of tithes, and a ſmall allotment, with a corn-rent, to the vicar.

[n] Eſch. Hen. III. [o] Tanner. [p] Papers in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Wade Gery.
[q] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees Brit. Muſ.

EDWORTH,

EDWORTH, a ſmall village on the borders of Hertfordſhire, about ſix miles from Shefford and five from Baldock, is in the hundred of Biggleſwade. The manor was part of the eſtate of Walter de Langton, prime miniſter to king Edward I[r]. It had been before in the Seymours[s], and was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Peverell, Liſle, Talbot, Zouche, Enderby, and Powley[t]. It is now the property of William Hale eſq. of King's Walden in Hertfordſhire, in whoſe family it has been for many years. Mr. Hale is alſo patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Shefford. The advowſon formerly belonged to the priory of St. Neot's[u].

ELSTOW, a conſiderable village about a mile and a half from Bedford, is in the hundred of Redbornſtoke. It has fairs on the 15th and 16th of May; and on the 5th and 6th of November.

Judith Counteſs of Huntingdon founded an abbey here, in the reign of William the Conqueror, for Benedictine nuns, which was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, St. Mary, and St. Helen. Its revenues, when diſſolved, were eſtimated at 284l. 12s. 11¾d. clear yearly value[w]. The ſite was granted in 1553 to Sir Humphrey Ratcliffe, a younger brother of the Earl of Suſſex, who reſided in the abbey houſe, and died in 1566, as appears by his monument over the altar in Elſtow church. In the reign of Charles the Firſt[x], and perhaps at an earlier period, it belonged to the family of Hillerſdon, who built a large manſion adjoining to the church, now in ruins, the greater part of it having been pulled down a few years ago. The ſite of the abbey, and the manor, which belonged alſo to the convent, are now the property of Samuel Whitbread eſq. M.P. whoſe father purchaſed it, in 1792, of the daughters of the late Mr. Hillerſdon.

There are very few remains of the conventual buildings excepting the church (now the pariſh church), which retains conſiderable traces of the original ſtructure. The north door is of Norman architecture; ſome of the columns are ſquare and very maſſy, and moſt of the arches circular. At the ſouth-weſt corner of the church is a ſmall building with a vaulted roof, ſupported in the centre by an octagonal fluted column, probably a veſtibule. In the ſouth aiſle of the chancel is the tomb, with her effigies in braſs, of Elizabeth Hervey, the laſt abbeſs of Elſtow, placed there in her life-time, with blank ſpaces for the dates. As ſhe ſurvived the diſſolution of the abbey, it is probable that her body never reached its intended place of ſepulture. Some of the nuns, who died after the reformation, were buried in St. Mary's church at Bedford. In the church at Elſtow are ſeveral memorials of the families of Crompton, Lovett, and Hillerſdon.

[r] Eſch. Edw. I. [s] Ibid. [t] Eſch. and Cl. Rot. Edw. III.—Eliz.
[u] Placit. &c. de terris in Com. Bedf. in Turr. Lond. [w] Tanner. [x] Cole's Eſcheats, Brit. Muſ.

The great tithes of Elſtow were appropriated to the abbey; they are now the property of Mr. Whitbread. He is alſo patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament which paſſed in 1797, when an allotment of lands was made in lieu of the rectorial tithes. The number of acres in the pariſh was then eſtimated at 1060.

John Bunyan, author of the celebrated theological romance called the Pilgrim's Progreſs, was born at Elſtow in 1628, of mean parentage.

Eversholt, a village in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Flitt, lies about two miles and a half eaſt of Woburn. The manor, which had belonged to the monaſtery, was, after the reformation, annexed to the honour of Ampthill. In 1601 it was granted to Henry Aſtrey, who, the ſame year, conveyed it to the Hillerſdons. In 1702, it was purchaſed of that family by Wriotheſly Duke of Bedford [y], from whom it has deſcended to the preſent duke. The manor of Wakes in this pariſh, now the Duke of Bedford's, was purchaſed with Everſholt in 1702. In 1504 it was the property of Giles Lord Daubeny. In 1531 it paſſed to the family of Hinton; and in 1604 from them to the Hillerſdons [z]. The manor of Kingſhoe or Kinſes, in this pariſh, is alſo the Duke of Bedford's. It was purchaſed by the late duke. The advowſon of the rectory, which belonged formerly to the priory of St. John of Jeruſalem [a], has been many years in the noble family of Sandys. The reverſion, with other large eſtates of the late Lord Sandys, is veſted, after the death of his Lady, in the ſecond ſon of the late Marquis of Downſhire.

Everton.—This pariſh is partly in Bedfordſhire, partly in Cambridgeſhire, and partly in Huntingdonſhire. As the church ſtands in Cambridgeſhire, it will be treated of under that county.

Eyworth, in the hundred of Biggleſwade and deanery of Shefford, lies on the borders of Cambridgeſhire, about three miles from Potton and five from Biggleſwade. The manor belonged, at an early period, to the Leybourns [b]. It was afterwards in the families of Charlton and Francis [c]. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Eyworth was the property and ſeat of Sir Edmund Anderſon, Lord Chief Juſtice of the Common Pleas; a man of conſiderable eminence in his profeſſion, and one of the judges who ſat at the trial of Mary Queen of Scots. His great-grandſon Stephen was created a baronet in 1664; their poſterity continued at Eyworth till the death of Sir Stephen Anderſon bart. in 1773, when the title became extinct. The manor is

[y] Duke of Bedford's Records. [z] Ibid. [a] Placit. &c. de terris in Com. Bedford. in Turr. London. [b] Eſch. Edw. I.—Edw. III. [c] Eſch. Hen. V. &c.

now

now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Yarborough, whoſe family name was Anderſon [d], being lineally deſcended from Stephen Anderſon, a grandſon of the chief juſtice.

In the church are ſeveral monuments of the Anderſons. That of the Chief Juſtice, on the ſouth ſide of the chancel, has the effigies of himſelf and his lady, under a richly-ornamented arch. He is repreſented in his robes and cap, with a collar of S.S.; the face bears a ſtrong reſemblance to his portrait, as engraved by Faithorne. On the oppoſite ſide of the chancel is the monument of Sir Francis Anderſon, eldeſt ſon of the Chief Juſtice, whoſe effigies in gilt armour is repreſented between thoſe of his two wives, kneeling and fronting the chancel. On the ſouth ſide of the chancel is the monument of Edmund Anderſon eſq. of Stratton, eldeſt ſon of Sir Francis, who died in 1638. It has half-length figures of himſelf and his wife Alice in white marble, their hands jointly holding a heart, on which are inſcribed theſe words—"To God." On the floor is the tomb of Alice, Viſcounteſs Verulam and Baroneſs St. Alban's, widow of the great Lord Chancellor Bacon, who died in 1656, probably at the houſe of Mr. Anderſon, to whom ſhe was related.

The great tithes of this pariſh were appropriated to the priory of St. Helen's in London. They are now the property of Lord Yarborough, who is patron of the vicarage. Edmund Chiſhull, a learned antiquary and divine, was born in this pariſh.

FARNDISH, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, is a ſmall village on the borders of Northamptonſhire, into which county a conſiderable part of the pariſh extends. It is about five miles from Higham-Ferrers. In the 13th and 14th centuries the manor was ſucceſſively the property of the Pabenhams and Tyringhams [e]. During the laſt century, and perhaps for a longer period, it was in the family of Maydwell, from whom it paſſed, by marriage and bequeſt, to the Lockwoods; and is now the property of William Lockwood Maydwell eſq. Charles Cheſter eſq. is patron of the rectory. The pariſh of Farndiſh, computed to contain 672 acres, has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1800, when an allotment was made to the rector in lieu of tithes.

FELMERSHAM, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies on the banks of the Ouſe, about ſeven miles north-eaſt of Bedford. The manor, at an early period, was in the family of St. John, in which it continued till 1640, when it was ſold by the Earl of Bolingbroke and his brothers to Mr. Leach, of whoſe deſcendants it was purchaſed in 1717 by Thomas Orlebar gent. It is now veſted in the

[d] Some years ago he took the name of Pelham in addition. [e] Eſch. Edw. II.—Rich. III.

Rev. Thomas Orlebar Marſh, the Rev. Edward Orlebar Smith, and other repreſentatives of Mr. Orlebar. The Maſter and Scholars of Trinity College in Cambridge have alſo a manor here, together with the rectory and advowſon of the vicarage. The pariſh was incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1765, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriators and to the vicar.

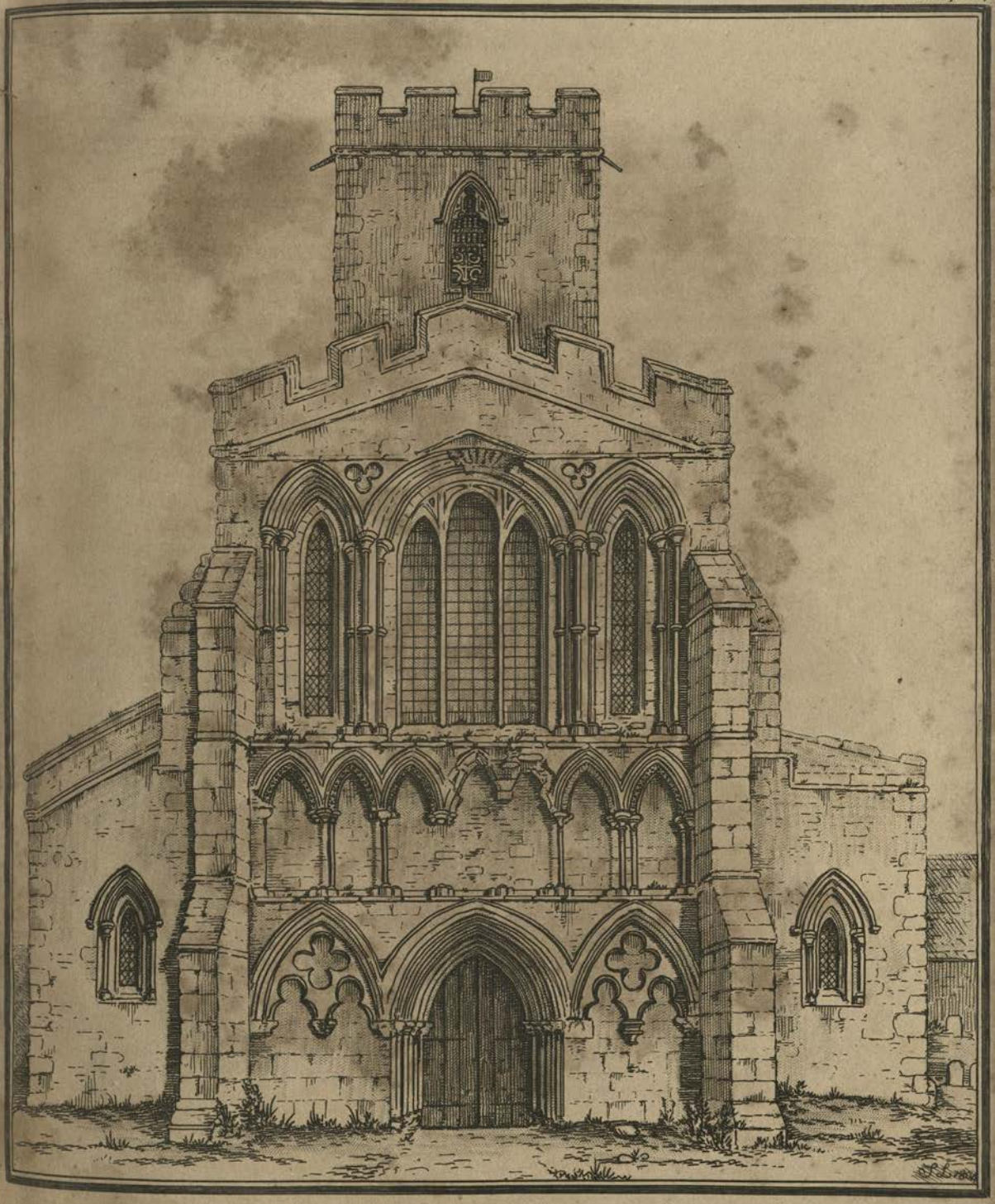
The weſt end of the church affords a curious ſpecimen of the earlieſt Gothic architecture. Between the nave and chancel is an ancient wooden ſcreen very richly ornamented.

From a very early period there were two manors at *Radwell*, a hamlet of this pariſh, which has a bridge over the Ouſe. One of theſe manors was granted, by William the Conqueror, to Euſtace de St. Giles, who gave it to his brother Oſbert le Mordaunt[f], anceſtor of the Peterborough family. From the reign of Henry III. to that of Henry VI. it was in the Radwells[g]; and paſſed from them by an heir female to the family of Rands[h], who continued to poſſeſs it till the year 1753, when it was ſold to the late Jeffrey Fiſher eſq. of Flitwick, whoſe only child Anne, late the wife of James Heſſe eſq. and now of George Brooks eſq. has given it to her two daughters by her firſt huſband, Anne wife of William Horne eſq. and Martha wife of the Rev. Arthur Bold. The manor-houſe is a very ancient building, and has, in the windows of an old hall, the arms of Radwell impaling S. a chevron between three lions' heads eraſed Arg. crowned Or (Beauchamp). The other manor, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, belonged to the Albinis; in 1316 to the Patſhulls[i], from whom it paſſed by female heirs to the St. Johns; and is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord St. John.

Flitton was anciently called Flictham, Flutte, and Flitt. It gives name to the hundred and deanery in which it lies. The village is about four miles ſouth-eaſt of Ampthill. The manor, which, at the Norman ſurvey, belonged to Robert Faſiton, and was afterwards in the Fitz-Richards, before the year 1324 became the property of the ancient family of Grey of Ruthin[k], who, at an earlier period[l], had been poſſeſſed of the manor of Wreſt in this pariſh, now the ſeat of their repreſentative Lady Lucas. Edmund Lord Grey of Ruthin was created Earl of Kent in 1465. The barony paſſed to an heir female on the death of Henry Earl of Kent in 1639, but the earldom continued in the family of Grey. In 1706 Henry de Grey, Earl of Kent, was created Marquis, and in 1710, Duke of Kent. He died in 1740 without ſurviving male iſſue, when the dukedom became extinct. The marquiſate was

[f] Collins's Peerage. [g] Eſcheats. [h] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees, Brit. Muſ.
[i] *Nomina Villarum*, Brit. Muſ. [k] Eſch. 17 Edw. II.
[l] Reginald Grey died ſeiſed of Wreſt in 1308. See Eſch. 1 Edw. II.

not



WEST VIEW OF FELMERSHAM CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE.

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not long before his death entailed on his eldeſt grand-daughter, Jemima, the lady of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, and daughter of John Lord Glenorchy, by Lady Amabel Grey, the duke's eldeſt daughter, and her iſſue male. On the death of Marchioneſs Grey, in 1797, without male iſſue, that title became extinct; but the barony of Lucas, which in 1663 was extended to the heirs male and female of Anthony Earl of Kent by Mary, ſole heireſs of John Lord Lucas, deſcended to her eldeſt daughter Amabel, relict of Lord Polworth, now baroneſs Lucas, who is the preſent proprietor of the manors of Flitton and Wreſt.

Wreſt Park was in 1524 the ſeat of Sir Henry Grey [m]; who, being then heir to the title, on the death of his half-brother, found the eſtates ſo much impoveriſhed, that he neglected to aſſume it; and it remained dormant till re-aſſumed by his grandſon Reginald. The peerages are inaccurate in ſtating that his ſon declined to aſſume the title, the fact being, that he never had the opportunity, for he died in the life-time of his father in the year 1545, as appears by his tomb in Flitton church; ſo that Reginald ſucceeded to the eſtates on the death of his grandfather in 1562, and was the fifth only, and not the ſixth, as the peerages ſtate, to whom the dignity of an earl, which he did not aſſume till 1571, belonged. Wreſt Park has been ever ſince the principal ſeat of the family.

The houſe, in its preſent ſtate, retains little appearance of antiquity, having been, at various times, altered and modernized. It contains a great number of portraits, forming nearly a ſeries of the noble family of Grey from Henry Earl of Kent, one of the peers who ſat on the trial of Mary Queen of Scots, down to the preſent time. Among theſe are Elizabeth Counteſs of Kent, who, reſiding at Wreſt in her widowhood, there patronized Butler the poet, and frequently entertained the learned Selden as her gueſt; Anthony Grey, rector of Burbach, who ſucceeded, in 1639, to the title on the death of Henry Earl of Kent, huſband to the above-mentioned lady; Lady Suſanna Grey, daughter of Charles Earl of Kent, who carried the barony of Grey of Ruthin to the Longuevilles; Henry Earl of Kent, who died in 1651, and Amabel his ſecond counteſs, commonly called the good Counteſs of Kent; Anthony Earl of Kent and his lady, the ſole heireſs of John Lord Lucas, in their robes, by Sir Peter Lely, &c. &c. &c. There are ſeveral portraits alſo of the Crew family, and others; among which are Sir Randolph Crew, Lord Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench, a fine picture of Thomas Lord Crew by Sir Peter Lely, Nathaniel Lord Crew Biſhop of Durham, and Sir Charles Lucas, brother of the firſt Lord Lucas, the eminent loyaliſt, who was ſhot at the ſiege of Colcheſter; and of that celebrated lawyer and ſtateſman, the late Lord Chancellor Hardwicke.

The gardens at Wreſt Park exhibit a ſpecimen of the old ſtyle improved by Brown,

[m] Collins's Peerage.

who

who made the ſerpentine river, a very fine piece of water, about three quarters of a mile in length, ſurrounding the garden, and ſupplied by a ſpring which riſes not far from the houſe. At the ſpring-head is a cold-bath, over which is a building in imitation of a Roman temple, deſigned by Sir William Chambers. The duke of Kent, who was very partial to his country-ſeat, adorned the gardens with obeliſks and various other buildings, particularly a magnificent banqueting-houſe, which terminates a ſpacious avenue in front of the manſion, and a large room where he ſpent many convivial hours with ſome of the great ſtateſmen who were his contemporaries, after partaking of his favourite amuſement in the adjoining bowling-green.

It is probable that the pariſh church of Flitton was built by Reginald Lord Grey, Lord Admiral of England, ſubſequent to the year 1410, when the court of chivalry adjudged him the right of bearing the arms of Haſtings [n], which are quartered with his own on the porch of Flitton church. It is principally remarkable for the monuments of the noble family of Grey, whoſe burial-place it has been ſince the reign of Henry VIII. The aiſle adjoining the nave was built by Henry Earl of Kent in 1605. In this aiſle are the monuments of Henry Earl of Kent, the founder, who died in 1614, with the effigies, in their robes, of himſelf and his counteſs, Mary daughter of Sir John Cotton, who died in 1580, and was buried at Great Gaddeſden;—Elizabeth Counteſs of Kent, daughter of Gilbert Earl of Shrewſbury, who died in 1651, with her effigies in white marble;—Henry Earl of Kent, who died in 1651, and his ſecond wife Amabel, called from her works of charity the *good* Counteſs of Kent, who died in 1698, at the age of 92. Their effigies in white marble are very heavy and ungraceful;—and Lady Jane, relict of Sir Euſtace Hart, who died in 1671, with her effigies in white marble. Charles Earl of Kent, who died in 1623, and Henry Earl of Kent, who died in 1639, have only memorials on the floor; where is alſo a figure in braſs, removed, probably, from the nave or chancel, of Henry, eldeſt ſon of Sir Henry Grey, who died in 1545, during the life-time of his father. The duke of Kent built three additional rooms, in which are the monuments of the duke himſelf, who died in 1740, and his only ſon Anthony, Earl of Harold, who died in 1723, with their effigies in white marble in Roman habits; his two ducheſſes, Jemima Crew, who died in 1738, and Lady Sophia Bentinck, who died in 1748; his three daughters, Amabel Lady Glenorchy, who died in 1727; Lady Henrietta De Grey, 1717; and Lady Anne Cavendiſh, 1733, with their effigies in white marble; an urn to the memory of Lady Mary Gregory, a fourth daughter, who died in 1761; and another in memory of the late Earl of Hardwicke, who died in 1790. In the chancel is the effigies in braſs of Thomas Hill, receiver-general to three earls of Kent, who died in 1628, aged 101 [o].

[n] Collins's Peerage. [o] Mr. Hill's age, and the date of his death, were incorrectly printed in Pennant's Journey to London, and have been from thence copied into other works.

The

The great tithes of Flitton, which were appropriated to the priory of Elſtow, are now veſted, together with the advowſon of the vicarage, in Chriſt-Church College, Oxford, and are held on leaſe under the college by Lady Lucas.

*Silſoe*, a hamlet in this pariſh, on the road from Luton to Bedford, had formerly a market on Tueſdays, granted in 1319 to Ralph Fitz-Richard, then lord of the manor, together with a fair on the feſtival of St. Philip and St. James [p]. This fair is ſtill held; and another on the 21ſt of September. The market has been long diſuſed. The manor, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, belonged to a concubine of Nigel de Albini. It has long been in the family of Grey. An ancient record ſpeaks of the manor of Blundell in Silſoe [q], as part of their property, but the name is not now known. At this hamlet is a chapel of eaſe. The altar-piece, repreſenting the Adoration of the Shepherds, was painted by Mrs. Mary Lloyd, and given by her to the chapel.

Flitwick, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke and deanery of Flitt, lies about three miles ſouth of Ampthill. The manor of Flitwick was anciently in the Earls of Albemarle [r]. A moiety of it paſſed afterwards through the families of Flitwick, St. Amand, Cornwall Lord Fanhope, and Grey Earl of Kent: by the latter it was conveyed to the crown. King Charles I. having ſold it to the city of London, it was conveyed in 1639 by the city truſtees to Edward Blofield and his heirs. From the Blofields this manor paſſed by marriage to Benjamin Rhodes eſq. who in 1736 deviſed it to Humphrey Dell, M. D. Under Dr. Dell's will it was enjoyed by the late Jeffrey Fiſher eſq. in right of his wife, and now by George Brooks eſq. as huſband of Anne daughter of Mr. Fiſher, and relict of James Heſſe eſq. The manor-houſe is occupied by the Right Hon. John Trevor. The other moiety of the manor belonged to the priory of Dunſtaple [s]; and, ſince the reformation, to the families of Moſsley, Honeywood, and Mildmay [t]. It is ſuppoſed to be now conſolidated with the other. The great tithes were appropriated to the priory of Dunſtaple. They are now held, together with the glebe-land, which conſiſts of 95 acres, 3 roods, and 2 perches, by Mr. Brooks, on a leaſe of 99 years from the feoffees, in truſt for the ſchoolmaſter of Holme, the maſter of the free-ſchool at Biggleſwade, the vicar of Biggleſwade, the rector of Connington, and the vicar of St. Neot's. The Earl of Oſſory is patron of the vicarage of Flitwick.

At Rokeſac, or Ruxox, in this pariſh, was a ſmall monaſtery, which appears to have been a cell to Dunſtaple. The chapel of St. Nicholas de Rokeſac was built

[p] Cart. 12 Edw. II. [q] Cole's Eſcheats in the Britiſh Muſeum. [r] Chron. Dunſt. 1269.
[s] Eſcheats, Edw. I.—Rich. II. Cl. Hen. VI. &c. [t] Chron. Dunſt. [u] Cole's Eſcheats.

by

by Philip de Sannerville about the year 1170, and dedicated by Robert de Cheſney, Biſhop of Lincoln [w]. The ſite of Rokeſac was granted by William Earl of Albemarle, and Hawiſe his wife, to the canons of Dunſtaple and the canons of Rokeſac [x]. Alexander, canon of Rokeſac, is mentioned in an old deed in the cartulary of Dunſtaple in the Britiſh Muſeum, which contains ſeveral grants to St. Nicholas of Rokeſac. Mention is made in the chronicle of Dunſtaple, under the year 1205, of ſettling about the prior at Rokeſac. Friar Michael de Peck, friar John de Hallings, and others of the houſehold at Rokeſac, are mentioned in the ſame chronicle under the year 1283. It is probable that the monks were removed long before the reformation, for records of that date make no other mention of Rokeſac, or Ruxox, than as a manor belonging to the priory of Dunſtaple, which was granted in 1558 to the family of Weſt, in whom it continued for a conſiderable time. In 1704 it was purchaſed of the heirs female of their ſucceſſors, the Bloſields, by Lord Bruce, and of his family, in 1738, by John duke of Bedford; from whom it has deſcended to the preſent duke. The ſite is moated, but there are no remains of the ancient buildings.

The manor of Preſtley, in this pariſh, was purchaſed of the Jourdans in the year 1495, by the family of Grey. In 1541 Sir James Grey conveyed it to the crown. Queen Elizabeth, in 1560, granted it to Richard Champion and John Thompſon. It was purchaſed of the Thompſon family by the Cuthberts, from whom it paſſed, by a female heir, to the Sheldons. It is now part of the Duke of Bedford's eſtate, having been purchaſed of the truſtees of Colonel Durham, who married the daughter of Cuthbert Sheldon eſq. who died in 1764. The late duke kept this eſtate in his own hands for the purpoſe of his agricultural experiments.

Goldington, in the hundred of Barford, is ſituated nearly two miles north-eaſt of Bedford. The Hazeldens had a manor in this pariſh as early as the year 1432 [y], which continued in their family at leaſt three centuries. It is now the property of J. Polhill eſq. The Goſtwickes had another manor [z], which, it is probable, had been in the Beauchamps and Mowbrays. It is now the property of the duke of Bedford, whoſe grandfather purchaſed it of the duke of Marlborough in 1774. The great tithes of this pariſh were appropriated to the priory of Newenham. After the reformation, they were many years in the Hazelden family, and are now the property of Mr. Joſeph Addington. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford. In the church are ſome memorials of the ancient family of the Hazeldens: that of lateſt date is the tomb of James Hazelden gent. who died in 1732.

[w] Cartulary of Dunſtaple Priory in the Britiſh Muſeum. [x] Ibid. [y] Cl. 11 Hen. VI.
[z] Cole's Eſcheats.

The

The priory of Newenham, above mentioned, was ſituated in this pariſh, on the banks of the Ouſe, and was founded by Simon de Beauchamp, who removed hither ſome canons regular from the collegiate church of St. Paul at Bedford [a]. The revenues of this priory were valued, in the reign of Henry VIII. at 293l. 5s. 11d. clear yearly income. After the diſſolution, the manor of Newenham, which had belonged to the priory, was made parcel of the honour of Ampthill, as it ſtill continues, being on leaſe to the duke of Bedford. The ſite of the priory was the reſidence of Sir Robert Catlin, Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench [b], who died in 1574; and was afterwards the property of William Lord Cobham [c]. The preſent proprietor is Mrs. Mary Beſt. There are no remains either of the priory or manſion. A wall of brick, with a turret, marks the ſituation of a court, which, it is probable, adjoined the houſe.

The caſtle-mill, and ſite of Riſinghoe caſtle, are alſo in Goldington pariſh. Riſinghoe caſtle is ſuppoſed, by Leland, to have belonged to the Eſpecs; but it ſeems more probable that it was the property of the Beauchamps, who appear, by the Norman ſurvey, to have had the chief property in this pariſh. The Eſpecs had no lands either in the pariſh or hundred. Riſinghoe mill is mentioned in a charter of Thomas Lord Mowbray, bearing date 1391 [d]. It is now the duke of Bedford's. The keep of the caſtle is of conſiderable height, and adjoining it are large earth-works. The duke of Bedford has alſo the manor of Putnoe, or Puttenhoe, in this pariſh, which belonged to the Beauchamps, and was afterwards in the Mowbrays and Goſtwicks. The abbot and convent of Warden had alſo an eſtate at Puttenhoe. King Henry III. granted them an annual penſion of 20 marks, to be paid out of the exchequer, as a compenſation for the damage he had done to their woods at Puttenhoe during the ſiege of Bedford.

Upper-Gravenhurst, in the hundred of Flitt, lies about three miles ſouth-weſt of Shefford. The manor belonged to the abbey of Ramſey, and was granted in 1542 to Sir Henry Grey, from whom it deſcended to the preſent proprietor Lady Lucas. The great tithes belong to Trinity College, Cambridge. The benefice, which is in the deanery of Shefford, is a curacy in the gift of the pariſhioners.

Ion houſe, in this pariſh, was ſold in 1639 by William Whitbread gent. anceſtor of the preſent member for Bedford, to William Allayne, whoſe daughter and heir brought it in marriage to John Sabine eſq. created a baronet in 1672, being deſcribed of Ion-houſe, which he ſold the ſame year to Morgan Hinde eſq. of whoſe

[a] Leland's Collect. [b] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees, Britiſh Muſeum. [c] Eſch. 39 Eliz.
[d] Dugdale's Monaſt. II. 240.

family it was purchaſed, in 1724, by the duke of Kent. It is now a farm houſe, the property of Lady Lucas.

LOWER GRAVENHURST, an adjoining village, is in the ſame hundred, but in the deanery of Flitt. The manor was anciently in the families of Bocles [e], Zouche [f], and Bilhemore [g]. It was many years in the noble family of Grey, and is now the property of their repreſentative Lady Lucas. The church was built by Sir Robert de Bilhemore, as appears by a French inſcription on his tomb, without date. In the porch is a coat of arms ſuppoſed to be his, a bend within a border engrailed. In the church are monuments of the Pigots. That of Benjamin Pigot eſq. who died in 1606, has a genealogical account of the family. His mother (the daughter of Oliver St. John of Bletſoe) was relict of Henry Grey eſq. who died in 1545, during his father's life-time, and, by him, mother of three ſucceſſive earls of Kent,—Reginald, Henry, and Charles. Lower Gravenhurſt is a rectory in the gift of the crown.

HARLINGTON, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Flitt, lies about two miles north-eaſt of Toddington. The manor was parcel of the barony of Cainhoe belonging to the Albinis, under whom it was held by the Pyrots [h]; it is probable, that it paſſed afterwards to the families of Peyvre or Broughton; for it is certain, that in 1561, it was veſted in their repreſentatives the Cheneys [i], from whom it paſſed, by marriage, to the Wentworths, and under the will of Thomas Wentworth, earl of Strafford, who died in 1732, to the preſent proprietor Henry Vernon eſq. ſon of Lady Harriot Vernon, one of the earl's daughters.

Wood-end, in Harlington, was the ſeat of a branch of the Aſtrey family; the firſt who ſettled there was a grandſon of Sir Ralph Aſtrey, lord mayor of London, who died in 1494 [k]. Sir James Aſtrey of Wood-end was a learned lawyer, and publiſhed an edition of Spelman's Gloſſary with his life [l]. After the death of the late Dr. Aſtrey, Wood-end (which ſome writers, having miſtaken it for Wood-end in Cople, have erroneouſly deſcribed as a ſeat of the Lukes) was inherited by the preſent proprietor, Francis Penyſton eſq. of Cornwell in the county of Oxford. The manor of Wadloes, belonging alſo to Mr. Penyſton, is partly in this pariſh.

The Wingates had a ſeat in Harlington, now belonging to their repreſentative, John Wingate Jennings eſq. Edmund Wingate the arithmetician, who was ſent to France to teach the princeſs Henrietta Maria (afterwards the queen of Charles I.) Engliſh, was of this family. He reſided at Harlington during the protectorate of

[e] Eſch. Edw. II. [f] Ibid. [g] Epitaph in the church.
[h] Nomina Villarum, Brit. Muſ. [i] Cole's Eſcheats. [k] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees in the Brit. Muſ.
[l] Ant. Wood.

Cromwell.

Cromwell. In the year 1654, his name occurs in the Ampthill regiſter, atteſting marriages as a juſtice of peace.

Ralph Pyrot gave the church of Harlington to the prior and convent of Dunſtaple [m], to whom the great tithes were appropriated. They are now the property of Mr. Vernon, who is patron of the vicarage. In the church are ſome memorials of the Aſtreys.

HAROLD, a ſmall market town on the Ouſe, bordering on Northamptonſhire, lies in the hundred of Willey, and deanery of Clopham, about nine miles from Bedford. The market is held on Thurſday, but is ſo inconſiderable that it ſcarcely deſerves the name; and indeed, Harold has been overlooked by moſt writers who have enumerated the market towns of this county. The number of houſes in the pariſh, according to the returns made to Parliament under the Population Act in 1801, was 155, of inhabitants 763. The knights templars [n], and the family of Pabenham [o], appear to have been the principal land owners in this pariſh, in the thirteenth, and at the beginning of the fourteenth century. As early as the year 1324, the manor was in the noble family of Grey [p]. When Henry de Grey, earl of Kent, was created a marquis in 1706, he took his ſecond title from this place; his ſon Anthony, earl of Harold, who died in his father's life-time, was the only perſon by whom it was enjoyed. The manor is the property of Lady Lucas as repreſentative of the Greys.

Sampſon le Fort, in the year 1150, founded a priory at Harold, in honour of St. Peter, for canons and nuns of the order of St. Nicholas of Arrouaſia, but it was afterwards occupied by a prioreſs and a few nuns of the order of St. Auſtin. Its revenues, when ſuppreſſed, were eſtimated at 40l. 18s. 2d. clear yearly value. The ſite was granted, in 1544, to William Lord Parr, and again, in 1555, to John Cheney and William Duncombe [q]. It is now a farm houſe, the property of Lady Lucas. The only part of the conventual building which remains, is the refectory, now a barn, and known by the name of the Hall-barn.

In the pariſh church, which has a handſome Gothic ſpire, are memorials of the families of Boteler and Alſton; a monument (with her buſt) of Mrs. Jolliffe, daughter of Lord Crew; and the tomb of Mrs. Mead, daughter of Sir Rowland Alſton of Odell, and widow of Dr. Mead the celebrated phyſician, who reſided at the large houſe near the church, which devolved to him in right of his wife, and was inherited by his ſon. It is now the ſeat of Robert Garſtin eſq. The great tithes of Harold were appropriated to the priory: the preſent proprietor of the rectorial

[m] Chron. Dunſt. [n] Cart. 53 Hen. III. [o] Cart. 5 Edw. II. [p] Eſch. 17 Edw. II.
[q] Tanner.

eſtate is Grove Spurgeon Farrer eſq. The pariſh has been exonerated from tithes, in conſequence of the incloſure, for which an act of Parliament paſſed in 1797. The vicar has a ſmall allotment of glebe under this act, and a corn-rent in lieu of his farther intereſt in the tithes. The pariſh was then computed to contain 3300 acres. Lady Lucas is patroneſs of the vicarage.

There is a bridge over the Ouſe at Harold, with a long cauſeway.

HATLEY-PORT, or COCKAYNE-HATLEY, in the hundred of Biggleſwade and deanery of Shefford, is a ſmall village two miles from Potton, on the borders of Cambridgeſhire. It was anciently the eſtate of the Argentiens and Bryans [r]. Sir John Cockayne, lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who died in 1427, became poſſeſſed of this manor, and made it his country-ſeat [s]. From his family the village obtained the appellation, which diſtinguiſhes it from ſome neighbouring pariſhes likewiſe named Hatley in Cambridgeſhire. The manor has lately paſſed by marriage to the family of Cuſt, and is now the property of Mrs. Lucy Cockayne Cuſt. In the nave of the pariſh church is an altar-tomb, ſtripped of its braſs plates, ſaid to be the monument of Chief Baron Cockayne. There are ſeveral memorials of this family, from the year 1527 to 1739. In the north aiſle is a monument of Sir Patrick Home, who married one of the Cockaynes, and died in 1627.—Mrs. Cuſt is patroneſs of the rectory.

HAWNES or HAYNES, anciently HAGNES, in the hundred and deanery of Flitt, lies about five miles from Shefford, and about ſix and a half from Bedford. The manor was part of the large poſſeſſions of the Beauchamps, and paſſed from them, by inheritance, to the Mowbrays [t]. It is probable that the marquis of Berkeley, who inherited large property from the Mowbrays, gave it, as he did ſeveral other eſtates, to Sir Reginald Bray; for it appears, that Sir Reginald's great-nephew, Sir Edward Bray, ſold it in 1563 to Robert Newdigate eſq. [u]. Queen Anne, conſort of James I. was entertained by Sir Robert Newdigate at Hawnes, on the 27th and 28th of July 1605, the king being then at Sir Edmund Conqueſt's at Houghton; on the 30th, the king and queen, with the whole court, attended divine ſervice at Hawnes church [w]. After the death of Sir Robert Newdigate in 1613, Hawnes is ſuppoſed to have paſſed by purchaſe to the Lukes of Cople, who appear

[r] Cart. 1 Edw. II. and the Nomina Villarum in the Britiſh Muſeum, No. 6281. Harl. MSS.

[s] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum.

[t] Dugdale's Baronage and Eſch. Ed. III.—Hen. VI.

[u] Papers in the poſſeſſion of William Bray eſq.

[w] MSS. of Thomas Archer, rector of Houghton-Conqueſt, in the poſſeſſion of the preſent rector.

to have reſided here occaſionally, from 1626 to 1654[x]. After this it was purchaſed by Sir Humphrey Wynch, who, in 1667, ſold it to Sir George Carteret. Sir George was, in 1681, created Baron Carteret of Hawnes; and his lady (being heireſs of John Granville, earl of Bath), was in 1714, created Counteſs Granville. Theſe titles became extinct in 1776, on the death of Richard, the ſecond Earl Granville; when Henry Frederick, ſecond ſon of Thomas Viſcount Weymouth, inheriting this and other his eſtates, took the name of Carteret, and, in 1784, was created Baron Carteret of Hawnes.

Hawnes houſe, which conſiſts of two quadrangles, has been modernized, and in great part rebuilt by the preſent Lord Carteret. Among the pictures are portraits of Margaret, counteſs of Lenox; Rembrandt's mother[y]; Sir George and lady Carteret; John earl Granville; &c. At the foot of the great ſtair-caſe is an ancient view of Longleat, the ſeat of the Marquis of Bath. In the church is a monument of Anthony Newdigate, one of the commiſſioners for the ſale of abbey lands, who died in 1568; and memorials for Sir John Oſborn, bart. of Chickſand, who died in 1699, and others of that family. Hawnes is alſo the burial-place of the Carterets, but there are no memorials for them in the church.

The church of Hawnes was given by Simon de Beauchamp to the priory of Chickſand, and the advowſon having paſſed, with other eſtates of that monaſtery, to the Oſborns, is now the property of Sir George Oſborn of Chickſand. The vicarage is endowed. Thomas Brightman, author of a Treatiſe on the Revelations, which attracted much notice in the reign of queen Elizabeth, was vicar of Hawnes. He died in 1607.

Henlow, in the hundred of Clifton, lies about two miles and a half to the eaſt of Shefford. There are three manors in this pariſh, one of which was for many generations in the noble family of Grey[z], and is now the property of their repreſentative Lady Lucas. It was held under the barony of Odell. Another, called Henlow Lanthony, was as early as the year 1293 part of the poſſeſſions of the priory of Lanthony near Glouceſter[a]. Sir John Clarke died ſeiſed of this manor in 1614, leaving two daughters co-heirs, from one of whom it is probable it paſſed to the family of Edwards, who have poſſeſſed it for ſeveral generations. It is now the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards, widow. A third manor, called Henlow-Warden, belonged to the abbey of that name. It has long been in the Edwards family, and is now the property of George Edwards eſq. ſon of Mrs. Edwards above-mentioned. In the pariſh church are ſeveral monuments of this family. The

[x] Pariſh Regiſter.

[y] The ſame perſon whoſe portrait was engraved for Pennant's tour to Scotland, under the erroneous appellation of the Counteſs of Deſmond. [z] Eſch. Rich. II., &c. [a] Cart. 21 Edw. I.

great

great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the hospital of St. Julian, near St. Alban's. When the parish was inclosed by an act of Parliament passed in 1795, the vicar, who was entitled to a portion of the great tithes, had a corn-rent assigned him, and a small allotment of land, the remainder of the land allotted in lieu of tithes was assigned to the Edwards family. The vicarage, which is in the gift of the crown, is in the deanery of Shefford.

Higham-Gobion, in the hundred and deanery of Flitt, a small village about nine miles from Luton, a little to the east of the road to Bedford, derived its additional name from the family of Gobion, to whom the manor belonged from an early period till the year 1301 [c], when it passed by marriage to the Botelers, in whose possession it continued for many generations. Their arms are still to be seen over the parlour fire-place in the manor-house, now a farm. Sir Henry Boteler of Higham-Gobion died in 1608, leaving a son, Sir John [d]. William Langley esq. became possessed of this estate in 1639. In 1641 he was created a baronet, being described of Higham-Gobion. His son, Sir Roger, in 1657, sold the manor to Arabella, countess of Kent, from whom it descended to the present proprietor, the Right Hon. Lady Lucas.

This place was the residence of the learned Dr. Castell, author of the Polyglott Bible, who lived here in obscure retirement, till he fell a victim to his intense application to study, which a short time before his death deprived him of his eye-sight. Dr. Castell was buried in Higham-Gobion church, where is a monument to his memory, with the following inscription: "Edmundus Castell, S.T.D. Regiæ Majestati Carolo II. a sacris, Ecclesiæ Christi Cantuarensis Canonicus, Linguæ Arabicæ apud Cantabrigienses Professor, Regalis Societatis Socius, author Lexicon Heptaglotti, necnon hujus ecclesiæ Rector. Mortalitatis quod reliquum est tam ipsi quam lectissimæ ejus conjugi Dominæ Elizabethæ Bettesworth, Petri Bettesworth militis aurati primó relictæ, deinde Joannis Harris Arm. (cujus filius Willielmus una cum filiâ ejus Elizabethâ hic jacent) Anno Ætat. Edmundi 68, Dæ. Elizabethæ 64—Anno Christi 1674.—Vivus hic legat humandum." The advowson of the rectory is vested in Richard Lee esq. as trustee for the children of the Rev. Mr. Mead of Dunstaple, who is the present incumbent.

Hockliffe, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Dunstaple, is a great thoroughfare on the ancient Watling-street, now the high road from London to Chester. At this village, which is about five miles beyond Dunstaple, the great road through Woburn to Manchester and Liverpool branches off. Its situation is low,

[c] Esch. 29 Edw. I. [d] MS. Diary of Thomas Archer, rector of Houghton-Conquest.

which

which was the occaſion of its having acquired the appellation of Hockliffe, or Hockley in the Hole; it was noted for its miry road, which of late years has been much improved. The manor belonged to the monaſtery of Woburn[e]. In 1615, it was granted to Thomas Hillerſden eſq. and in 1712, was purchaſed of his deſcendants by Allen Lord Bathurſt, who, in 1718, ſold it to John Reynal eſq. It is now the property of Francis Moore eſq. of Egginton, in right of his wife, who was relict of the late J. S. W. Reynal eſq. In the pariſh church, which ſtands on a hill at ſome diſtance from the high road, are tombs of the family of Gilpin, one of whom, Robert Gilpin, died rector of the pariſh, in 1640: his wife ſurvived him 50 years, and died at the age of 97. Richard Gilpin eſq. is now patron of the rectory. There was an ancient hoſpital at Hockliffe, dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, of which there are no remains. It exiſted as early as the reign of king John[f].

Holwell, in the hundred of Clifton and deanery of Shefford, is a ſmall village on the borders of Hertfordſhire, about three miles from Hitchin, a little to the weſt of the road from that town to Shefford. Henry Spigurnell had a charter of free-warren in Holwell, in the reign of Edward II. The manor was ſoon afterwards in the family of Malore[g]. On the attainder of Sir Robert Belknap, one of the juſtices of the common pleas in 1392, being then parcel of his eſtate, it was granted to John de Burton and others[h], and was afterwards in the family of Kynbell[i]. Not many years ago it was in the Foreſters, from whom, either by purchaſe or inheritance, it paſſed to Baldwin Leighton eſq. who, in 1765, ſold it to the late John Radcliffe eſq. It is now the property of the Right Hon. Lady Frances Radcliffe his widow. The manor is ſtyled Holwell the Great, otherwiſe Holwell and Codicot. The advowſon of the rectory, which belonged alſo to the late John Radcliffe eſq. was purchaſed in 1673, by his anceſtor Sir Ralph Radcliffe of the Nodes, who were for a ſhort time proprietors of the manor. It is now the property of Mr. Delmé Radcliffe, who married Miſs Clarke, the niece and heireſs of the late John Radcliffe eſq. The pariſh of Holwell has been incloſed by an act of Parliament paſſed in 1802, when an allotment of land was given to the rector in lieu of tithes. Mark Hilderſley, biſhop of Sodor and Man, was rector of this pariſh 35 years.

Houghton-Conquest, which lies in the hundred of Redborn-ſtoke, and deanery of Bedford, about two miles and a half north-eaſt of Ampthill, takes its

[e] Cooper's Hiſtory of Odell in Bibl. Top. Brit. [f] Tanner.
[g] Nomina Villarum in the Britiſh Muſeum, No. 6281. Harl. MSS. [h] Pat. 15 Rich. II.
[i] Cl. 3 Hen. V.

additional

additional name from the ancient family of Conqueſt, who were poſſeſſed of the manor before the year 1298[l]. The male line of this family became extinct in Benedict Conqueſt eſq. (father of the preſent Lady Arundel), of whom this manor was purchaſed by the late Earl of Upper Oſſory in 1741. It is now the property of the preſent earl. The ſeat of the Conqueſts was called Houghton-Bury, or Conqueſt-Bury. In 1605, king James paid a viſit to Sir Edmund Conqueſt, and ſlept at Houghton on the 27th and 28th of July, the queen being at the ſame time at Sir Richard Newdigate's, at Hawnes. On the 28th, it being the feaſt day at Houghton, the king with his court, conſiſting of the Duke of Lenox, the Earls of Northampton, Suffolk, Saliſbury, Devonſhire, and Pembroke, the Lords Knollys, Wotton, and Stanhope, and Biſhop Watſon, his almoner, attended divine ſervice at the pariſh church[m]. The little that remains of the old manſion at Houghton-Bury is now a farm houſe; the building is of brick and timber; the eaves are ornamented with groteſque figures carved in wood.

Another manor in this pariſh belonged to the barons St. Amand, and was held in dower by Eleanor Lady St. Amand[n], who, in 1415, petitioned parliament againſt Lord Grey of Ruthin, for redreſs on account of ſeveral outrages committed in her park at Ampthill and elſewhere[o]. From this lady the manor acquired the name of Dame-Ellenſbury Manor.—It paſſed, with other eſtates that had been in the St. Amands, to Lord Fanhope, and was afterwards the property of Sir William Gaſcoigne, who ſurrendered it to the king in 1538. From this time the hiſtory of Dame-Ellenſbury manor and Dame-Ellenſbury park, or Houghton park, are ſomewhat different till they were again united in the Bruce family. The Manor was retained in the hands of the crown, till granted by king Charles I. to Ditchfield and others, who in 1630, conveyed it to Sir Francis Clerke: Sir Francis died in 1632, and his repreſentatives not long afterwards ſold it to the Pigots, from whom it paſſed again by purchaſe, in 1665, to the Earl of Ayleſbury[p].

Houghton park, otherwiſe Dame-Ellenſbury park, was occupied in the early part of king James's reign by Sir Edmund Conqueſt, as keeper. In 1615, he made over his intereſt in it to Matthew Liſter and Leonard Welſtead, truſtees for the celebrated Mary counteſs of Pembroke[q], "Sidney's ſiſter, Pembroke's mother," who holding the park under the crown in her widowhood, built a ſplendid manſion of which the ſhell now remains. In 1630, Houghton park was granted in fee to Lord Bruce[r], and was for a conſiderable time the country-ſeat of his deſcendants, who were Earls of Elgin and Ayleſbury. Here the celebrated Chriſtian Counteſs of Devonſhire, ſpent three years in retirement at the houſe of her

[l] Eſch. 26 Edw. I. [m] Mr. Archer's Notes in the pariſh regiſter. [n] See Cl. 19 H. VI
[o] Rot. Parl. IV. 92. [p] Duke of Bedford's Records. [q] Ibid. [r] Ibid.

brother

brother the Earl of Elgin, after the battle of Worceſter in 1651, "lightening," as the author of her life obſerves, "her griefs and her expences." But even in this retirement, her ardent loyalty expoſed her to ſome riſks; a troop of horſe being ordered to fetch her from hence up to London, at the time that the counteſs of Carliſle was impriſoned in the tower; but ſhe eſcaped the danger by a bribe beſtowed on one of the council of ſtate. In 1738, John Duke of Bedford purchaſed Houghton park, with the manor of Dame-Ellenſbury, of the Earl of Ayleſbury; and in 1801, in conſequence of an exchange with the late Duke, they both became the property of the Earl of Oſſory. Houghton-park houſe was fitted up for the Marquis of Taviſtock, father of the preſent Duke of Bedford, who reſided there till his untimely death; after which, it was for a ſhort time occupied by Lord Oſſory, as tenant: it has never ſince been inhabited. In 1794, it was unroofed and reduced to a ſhell by the late Duke of Bedford, and moſt of the materials were uſed in building the Swan inn at Bedford.

Fuller and ſome other writers have called this manſion Ampthill Houſe. It muſt be obſerved, that in his time there was no capital manſion in Ampthill park, and that part of Houghton-park houſe ſtands within the pariſh of Ampthill. On the north front of this houſe was a lozenge ſhield with the arms and quarterings of Sydney, and an earl's coronet; on the ſouth front there ſtill remain, on the frieze, various monagrams and devices of the families of Sydney and Dudley. The ruins of the houſe ſtand on an elevated ſpot at the end of an avenue, which reaches into the vale of Bedford.

In Houghton park they ſhew a tree under which Sir Philip Sydney is ſaid to have written ſome of his works; but it is evident that the tradition is totally void of foundation, ſince Sir Philip died, many years before his ſiſter, the Counteſs of Pembroke, had any property or intereſt in Houghton park.

Lord Oſſory has another eſtate in this pariſh, called the Manor of Houghton-How-end, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, and after the reformation to the Conqueſts.

An eſtate in this pariſh called the Manor of Houghton-Conqueſt, or Bryttons, alias Groves in Houghton-Conqueſt, was the property of Lord Wenlock, after whoſe death it paſſed to the Rotherams, and at a later period was, together with another eſtate in this pariſh, called the Manor of Flamwells, in the family of Wylde. Sir Edmund Wylde died ſeiſed of them in 1620[s]. They are now the property of Dr. Macqueen in right of his wife, who was daughter and heir of the late Thomas Potter eſq. one of his majeſty's juſtices for Wales.

[s] Cole's Eſcheats. Brit. Muſ.

The manor of Beadlow, partly in this pariſh and partly in Clophill, belonged for many years to the Charnocks of Hulcote; from them it paſſed by marriage to the Herveys of Chilton in Buckinghamſhire, in the repreſentatives of which family it is now veſted.

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the Conqueſt family. In the chancel is the monument of Thomas Archer, rector of Houghton-Conqueſt, inſtituted in the reign of queen Elizabeth, who inſerted various hiſtorical notes in the pariſh regiſter and in a large note book, now in the poſſeſſion of the preſent rector, the Rev. Dr. Pearce, Maſter of Jeſus College in Cambridge. It appears, from theſe notes, that he preached before the king at Hawnes, July 30, 1605, on the following ſingular text from the Song of Solomon. "Take us the foxes, the little foxes which deſtroy the grapes, for our vines have ſmall grapes." The ſermon, it is to be ſuppoſed, pleaſed his majeſty, for the preacher was immediately afterwards ſworn one of his chaplains in ordinary. He preached before the king and queen at Toddington, July 24, 1608, and before the king at Bletſoe, July 26, 1612. "Anno 1623," ſays Mr. Archer in the pariſh regiſter, "I cauſed my grave to be made with brick, and I made my coffin whereon are ſet theſe figures 1623." The following epitaph is of his own writing:

"Inſtruxi vivens multos
Nunc inſtruo cunctos
Quod ſtruit una dies
Deſtruit una dies.
Sic ſpecioſa ruit
Spatioſi fabrica mundi
Sic oritur, moritur,
Vermis, inermis, homo.
O me felicem
Qui carnis faſce ſolutus
Mutavi veris vitrea
Vana bonis.
Fui Thomas Archer
Capellanus Regis Jacobi
Rector hujus eccleſiæ
per annos XLI.
In vita hoc poſui
Anno Domini MDCXXIX.
Anno Ætatis LXXVI
Veniet qui me in lucem
reponet dies.

The effigies of the deceaſed, who died in 1631, is repreſented in canonicals, in his pulpit, with a cuſhion and book before him. In the chancel is the monument alſo of

of Dr. Zachary Grey, rector of Houghton, editor of Hudibras, and a commentator on Shakſpere, with the following inſcription:

"Sacred to the memory of Zachary Grey, L.L.D. late rector of this pariſh, who with zeal undiſſembled ſerved his God, with love and affection endeared himſelf to his family, with ſincerity unaffected promoted the intereſt of his friends, and with real charity and extenſive humanity behaved towards all mankind. He died, Nov. 25, 1766, aged 78."

The church of Houghton was formerly divided into two portionable parſonages, called Houghton-Franchiſe, and Houghton-Gildable. There were two parſonage houſes, one of which was moated; the parſonages were united by the King's ſpecial command in 1637 into one rectory called Houghton-Conqueſt, to which Edward Martin was then inducted as the firſt rector [t]. The advowſon was ſold by the Conqueſts to St. John's College in Cambridge.

A free-ſchool and alms-houſe were founded at Houghton-Conqueſt by Sir Francis Clerke, the great benefactor to Sidney Suſſex College in Cambridge, who had a ſeat in this pariſh, and died there in 1632. The maſter's ſalary is 16l. per annum, and the poor people, who are ſix in number, have 8l. divided between them, under Sir Francis Clerke's will. Edmund Wylde eſq. in 1691, left the ſum of 140l. for the purchaſe of lands, the profits of which are to be appropriated to the repairs of the ſchool and alms-houſe, the overplus to be divided among the ſix poor people.

Houghton-Regis, in the hundred of Manſhead, lies about a mile and a half from Dunſtaple, on the road to Toddington. The manor was anciently, as the name of the place imports, part of the royal demeſne. At a very early period it became the property of the Cantilupes, barons of Bergavenny [u]. From them it paſſed by a female heir to the Zouches of Harringworth, who became poſſeſſed of it in 1273 [w]. It was afterwards in the Brays; Sir Edward Bray conveyed it in 1567 [x] to Lewis Montgomery, and Jane his wife [y]. In the early part of the 17th century, this manor belonged to the Egertons, Earls of Bridgwater [z]. In 1653, it became the property of the Brandreths; and now belongs to the Duke of Bedford, whoſe grandfather purchaſed it of the Brandreths in 1750. The Duke has alſo the manor of Sewell in this pariſh, which was included in the ſame purchaſe. It was formerly the ſeat of an ancient family of that name, and afterwards belonged to the Dyves. It is now a farm-houſe. The Brandreths bought it, with the advowſon of Houghton-Regis, of Sir Lewis Dyve, of Bromham, an officer in the army of King Charles I. There is an

[t] Pariſh Regiſter. [u] Chron. Dunſt. and Dugdale's Baronage. [w] Ibid.
[x] 20th November, 9 Elizabeth. [y] Papers communicated by William Bray eſq. F.A.S.
[z] Duke of Bedford's Papers.

ancient monument in Houghton church, with the effigies of a man in armour, under a rich Gothic arch, which has the arms of Sewell; a chevron between three butterflies. There are ſeveral memorials alſo for the Brandreths. Henry Brandreth eſq. the repreſentative of that family, has a ſeat at Houghton, and poſſeſſes the impropriate rectory which formerly belonged to the priory of Dunſtaple, to which monaſtery they were confirmed by King Henry II. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Dunſtaple. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1796, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriator and vicar in lieu of tithes. The commons and waſtes in the pariſh were then computed at 4000 acres.

HULCOTE, in the hundred of Manſhead, and deanery of Flitt, is a very ſmall village on the borders of Buckinghamſhire, about 11 miles South Weſt of Bedford. The manor belonged anciently to the Firmbands and Wydvilles [a], and at a later period to a branch of the Charnocks of Lancaſhire, who ſettled at Hulcote in the reign of Henry VII. or Henry VIII.[b] John Charnock eſq. of Hulcote, was created a Baronet in 1661. The title became extinct by the death of Sir Villiers Charnock in 1779. In conſequence of the marriage of two of his ſiſters with the Herveys of Chilton in Buckinghamſhire, the manor of Hulcote is now the joint property of five ladies of that family. The old manor houſe, built by Richard Charnock, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, has lately been pulled down. This Richard Charnock was three times ſheriff for the county; he rebuilt the pariſh church of Hulcote at his own expence, as appears by the inſcription on his monument. There are ſeveral other memorials for the family in the church. Mrs. Barbara Hervey, who is one of the joint proprietors of the manor, is ſole patroneſs of the rectory, which is united with that of the neighbouring pariſh of Salford.

HUSBORN-CRAWLEY, in the hundred of Manſhead, and deanery of Flitt, lies on the borders of Buckinghamſhire, about eleven miles north-weſt of Bedford. In the chronicle of Dunſtaple, Huſborn, or Huſſeborn, and Crawley, ſeem to be ſpoken of as two places [c], although one pariſh, the church being at Huſborn. The manor belonged anciently to the Earls of Albemarle, and afterwards to the families of Flitwick [d] and Finaunce [e]. In the ſeventeenth century it was in the Thompſons. In 1691, it was purchaſed of Sir John Thompſon, by John Lowe; and in 1721, of Francis Lowe eſq. by Wriotheſly, Duke of Bedford [f], from whom it has de-

[a] Cart. 21 Edward I. and Cart. 39 Edward III. [b] Baronetage. [c] See particularly Anno 1251.
[d] Chron. Dunſt. [e] Eſch. 37 Henry VI. [f] Duke of Bedford's Records.

ſcended

ſcended to the preſent Duke. In the church is a handſome monument, with the effigies of a knight in armour, and his lady, under a canopy ſupported by Doric columns: it has no inſcription, but by the arms appears to be that of one of the Thompſon family. The impropriate rectory and advowſon of the vicarage, which formerly belonged to the priory of Dunſtaple, were purchaſed of the Thompſons, by the anceſtors of the Rev. E. Williamſon, who conveyed them to the late Duke of Bedford in 1795. The ſame year an act of parliament paſſed for incloſing the pariſh, when an allotment was aſſigned to the impropriator in lieu of tithes. In 1796, this vicarage (which was endowed in 1220, as appears by the chronicle of Dunſtaple) was conſolidated with Aſpley-Guiſe.

KEMPSTON, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke, lies about three miles north-weſt of Bedford. The manor of Kempſton-Daubeny, which has been commonly deemed the paramount manor, was granted in 1309 to John de Britannia, Earl of Richmond [g], and in 1337, to William Daubeny [h]. This manor, which appears to have been afterwards in the Brays [i], together with another manor, which paſſed by an heir female from the family of Fiſher to the St. Johns, and has been known by the name of Kempſton-Fiſhers, and Kempſton-St. Johns [k], were both in the ſeventeenth century in the family of Snagg, of whom they were purchaſed, early in the laſt century, by the anceſtor of Robert Dennis eſq. of Kempſton, the preſent proprietor.

Another manor called Kempſton-Greys, otherwiſe Haſtingſbury, was parcel of the dower of Maud, Counteſs of Huntingdon, and afterwards of her daughter-in-law, Helen, Counteſs of Cheſter, having been ſucceſſively in the families of Brus, Baliol, and Haſtings, who married the co-heireſſes of John Earl of Cheſter [l], it paſſed from the latter by a female heir to the Greys. In the reign of James I. it was the property of Sir Edward Cater, of whoſe repreſentatives it has been lately purchaſed by the preſent proprietor, William Long eſq.

William de Bohun had free warren in Hardwyck, a hamlet of this pariſh, in 1328 [m]. After the attainder of his deſcendant the Duke of Buckingham, in 1460,

[g] Cart. 2 Edward III. [h] Pat. 11 Edward III.

[i] Sir Edward Bray was poſſeſſed of it 9 Eliz. It had probably been then ſome time in the family of Bray. Papers communicated by William Bray eſq. F.A.S.

[k] A record of the year 1419, (7 Henry V.) See Placit. &c. in Com. Bedford in Turr. Lond. ſpeaks of a manor of Draytons in Kempſton, concerning which there was then a lawſuit between the guardians of Sir John Drayton's daughter and others. It is probable that this was the eſtate, which was afterwards called Kempſton-Fiſhers, and Kempſton-St. Johns.

[l] Dugdale's Baronage, and Eſch. [m] Cart. 2 Edward III.

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the manor of Kempſton-Hardwyck was in the family of Bowton. Edward Bowton conveyed it to Henry VIII. in 1542: it was afterwards in the families of Long[n] and Fitzwilliam[o]. This manor having been for a conſiderable time in the Cater family, was purchaſed of their repreſentatives by Mr. Long. The great tithes of Kempſton were appropriated to the priory of Caldwell and to Elſtow Abbey. The preſent impropriators are George Livius eſq.; Thomas Gurney eſq.; and F. G. Spurgeon Farrer eſq.: Mr. Aſpinall, the preſent incumbent, is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Bedford. The pariſh of Kempſton has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1802, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriators, and to the vicar, who was entitled to all the ſmall tithes, as well as to the great tithes of the Holmes.

KEYSOE, in the hundred of Stodden, and deanery of Eaton, lies in the north part of the county, about eleven miles from Bedford. There were formerly two manors in this pariſh, called Keyſoe-Berryſted, and Keyſoe-Grange, both of which became united in the St. John family. One of theſe manors was granted by Edward I. in 1297 to Walter Lord Teyes[p], from whom it paſſed by heirs female to the Patſhulls[q], Beauchamps, and St. Johns. The other appears to have belonged to the Peyvres[r], and Dayrells[s], before it came into the poſſeſſion of the St. Johns, a branch of which family had a ſeat at Keyſoe. The manor was purchaſed of the laſt Earl of Bolingbroke, about the year 1700, by the anceſtors of John Crawley eſq. of Stockwood, near Luton, who is the preſent proprietor.

The pariſh church which is a handſome Gothic building, has no monumental inſcriptions of any note. On the outſide is a tablet, commemorating the providential eſcape of a man who fell from the top of the ſpire. The church of Keyſoe was given by Simon de Beauchamp to the priory of Chickſand. The impropriation is now veſted in the maſter and ſcholars of Trinity College, Cambridge, who are patrons of the vicarage. Mr. Crawley is leſſee under the college. An act for incloſing this pariſh paſſed in 1803, when allotments, in lieu of tithes, were aſſigned to the impropriators and to the vicar.

KNOTTING, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Clopham, is a ſmall village on the borders of Northamptonſhire, about eleven miles from Bedford. It lies a little to the north of the Higham-Ferrers road. It was for ſeveral years a manor and ſeat of the Pyes of Berkſhire, of whom it was purchaſed in 1774, for the late Duke of Bedford during his minority. The manor houſe is now occupied

[n] Eſch. Eliz. [o] Eſch. Jac. [p] Cart. 2 Edw. I. [q] Eſch. Edw. III. [r] Cl. Hen. III. [s] Cl. Hen. VI.

as

as a farm. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the rectory, which has been united to Souldrop.

LANGFORD, in the hundred of Biggleſwade, lies about four miles north-eaſt of Shefford. The manor was parcel of the barony of Odell, and the fee continued in the family of the Wahuls or Wodhulls [t], Lords of that Barony, till the reign of Edward IV. Of late years it has been for a conſiderable time in the family of Browne, of which the late Mrs. Schutz was the heireſs. The church of Weſtminſter has alſo a manor in this pariſh. The rectory was appropriated to the knights hoſpitallers, and afterwards, by a grant bearing date 1547, to Fotheringay College in Northamptonſhire. The preſent proprietor of the great tithes and rectorial manor is Sir John Fagg bart. in right of his wife, who was daughter of Mr. Newman of Canterbury. The vicarage, which is in the deanery of Shefford, is in the gift of the crown.

LEIGHTON-BUSARD, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Dunſtaple, is a market-town on the borders of Buckinghamſhire, forty-one miles from London. It is ſuppoſed to have been the Lygeanburgh of the Saxon Chronicle, which was taken from the Britons by Cuthwulph in 571. It has been conjectured that the addition of Buſſard or Buzzard is a corruption of Beaudeſert, which name, indeed, occurs in ſome old papers; but in the moſt ancient records the name of the town is written Leighton-Boſard, and ſometimes Buſard or Buzzard. The family of Boſard or Boſſard, from whom it ſeems to have derived its additional name, were of conſequence in the county, and knights of the ſhire, in the reigns of Edward II. and Edward III [u].

The market which is on Tueſdays, is one of the moſt ancient in the county; the tolls were valued at 7l. per annum at the time of the Norman ſurvey. There are ſix fairs, viz. February 5, the ſecond Tueſday in April, Whitſun Tueſday, July 26, October 24, and the ſecond Tueſday in December. Two of theſe were granted to Eton College in 1447, the ſecond and laſt are of modern date; ſome of theſe fairs are noted for a large ſale of horſes. In the market-place is a beautiful Gothic croſs of a pentagonal form, with figures of Kings, &c. The aſſizes for the county were held at Leighton in July 1657. The number of houſes in Leighton pariſh, (excluſive of the hamlets,) according to the returns made to parliament in 1801 purſuant to the Population Act, was 376, that of inhabitants 1963.

The manor of Leighton, which was part of the ancient demeſne of the crown, is now held on leaſe under the church of Windſor, by the Hon. Mary Leigh, ſiſter of

[t] Eſch. Edw. IV. Thomas Reynes who held the manor of Langford under the Wahuls, paid a fine for alienation, anno 50 Edward III. [u] Willis's Notit. Parl.

the

the late Lord Leigh of Stonely in Warwickſhire, whoſe anceſtor Sir John Leigh acquired it about the year 1600, by marrying the daughter and heir of Sir Chriſtopher Hoddeſdon [u].

King Henry II. granted a manor in Leighton to the abbeſs and Ciſtercian nuns, of Font-Everard, in Normandy, who eſtabliſhed a cell of foreign monks in this pariſh, at a place called Grovebury [x], the prior of which was procurator-general for the concerns of the abbey of Font-Everard, in England. In 1316, this manor was held under the abbeſs, by Mary the king's ſiſter, who was a nun at Ambreſbury [y]. In 1411, the abbeſs of Font-Everard had the king's licence to alienate the manor of Grovebury to John Worſhip [z]. In 1413, it was purchaſed by Sir John Phelip, who ſettled it upon his wife Alice, a grand-daughter of the poet Chaucer, and their joint heirs [a]. It ſeems to have been ſeized by the crown, on the death of her third huſband, William Duke of Suffolk; for, in 1472, it was granted for life to the ducheſs, as a compenſation in part for a debt due to her from the crown [b]. It was enjoyed alſo by her ſon John Duke of Suffolk, who jointly with Elizabeth his wife, the king's ſiſter, granted the manor of Grovebury, alias Leighton-Boſard, to Windſor College [c]. The Hoddeſdons and Leighs held this manor on leaſe under the College. In 1668, Thomas Lord Leigh aſſigned the leaſe to Dr. George Bate, phyſician to King Charles II.; from his family it paſſed to the Powneys; and about 1776, from them to William Villiers Lewis eſq. father of William Villiers Villiers eſq. the preſent leſſee.

Beſides the alien priory before-mentioned, biſhop Tanner ſays, there ſeems to have been a houſe of Ciſtercian monks in Leighton, which was a cell to Woburn abbey.

In the pariſh church, which is a handſome Gothic building, are monuments for the family of Leigh, among which are thoſe of the Hon. Charles Leigh, who died in 1704, and his daughter Alice, Baroneſs Altham, who died in 1684. There are monuments alſo for the families of Wingate, Welles, and Wilkes. In the nave is a tablet to the memory of John Pulford, M. A. who died in 1710. "He made an augmentation," ſays his epitaph, "to the poor vicarage of Leighton, with a liberality not unworthy the greateſt prelate." This augmentation produces now, in lands and money, about 60l. *per annum*. The ſurvey of Doomſday ſtates the rectory of Leighton, then the property of Remigius, biſhop of Lincoln, to conſiſt of four hides of land. The rectorial manor is now a prebendal corps in that church, to which the biſhop collates. The leaſe has been held, with that of the principal manor, by the Hoddeſdons and Leighs, and is now veſted in the Hon.

[u] Collins' Peerage. [x] Dugdale's Monaſt. vol. ii. [y] Nomina Villarum in the Britiſh Muſeum.
[z] Pat. 12 Hen. IV. [a] Pat. 1 Hen. V. [b] Pat. 12 Edw. IV. [c] Pat. 20 Edw. IV.

Mrs.

Mrs. Mary Leigh. The prebendary is patron of the vicarage. William Sclater, a divine of ſome note, in the 17th century, was ſon of Anthony Sclater, who enjoyed the vicarage of Leighton-Buſard fifty years, and lived to be nearly a hundred years of age[d]. There was a fraternity or brotherhood in the church of Leighton: a part of their hall is ſtill ſtanding in Broad-ſtreet not far from the croſs.

At the entrance of the town, is an alms-houſe for eight poor widows, founded by Matthew Wilkes in 1630. Their allowance is 3s. a week each, beſides firing and clothes. The Hon. Mrs. Leigh, about the year 1790, built a houſe for the Sunday-ſchools, to which ſhe ſubſcribes 20l. *per annum.*

*Heath*, commonly called Heath-and-Reach, Billington, Egginton, Stanbridge, and Clipſon, are hamlets in this pariſh: the four firſt have chapels of eaſe. Heath-and-Reach lies about two miles from Leighton; Billington and Egginton about the ſame diſtance. In the returns made to Parliament in 1801, purſuant to the Population Act, all theſe hamlets, excepting Clipſon, were numbered ſeparately from Leighton; Stanbridge is ſtated to have 57 houſes, and 262 inhabitants; Billington 39 houſes, and 200 inhabitants; Egginton 44 houſes, and 206 inhabitants; Heath-and-Reach 111 houſes, and 541 inhabitants. The manor of Egginton, which, during the laſt century, paſſed through ſeveral hands, was lately the property of John Bond eſq. and now of George Goodwin eſq.

There are now three manors in Stanbridge, two of which it is probable belonged to the ancient family of Chamberleyne; ſince one of them is to be traced to the Fowlers, and the other to the Morteynes, both of which families inherited eſtates by female heirs from the Chamberleynes, who poſſeſſed the manor in the year 1323[e]. The manor of Stanbridge, as it is now called, was in the Fowlers about the latter end of the 16th century, afterwards in the families of Iremonger and Baldwin. From the latter it deſcended to the Rev. Mr. Pitman, of whom it was purchaſed by the huſband of the preſent proprietor, Mrs. Gurney. The manor of Morteynes, *alias* Reynes deſcended by a female heir from the Morteynes to the Dicons. In 1547, it was purchaſed by the family of Reynes of Clifton-Reynes. After ſeveral intermediate conveyances, it came into poſſeſſion of the Brandreths about the year 1700, and having paſſed by marriage to the Duncombes, was purchaſed of Brandreth Duncombe eſq. in 1786, by John Franklin eſq. the preſent proprietor. Another manor called Morrells, from a family who poſſeſſed it in the reign of Henry VI. was at that time called the manor of Stanbridge, and is ſuppoſed to have been the principal manor, ſince that, which is now called the manor of Stanbridge, then paid a quit-rent to it. From the Morrells, this manor paſſed to the family of Brocas, and from them to the Ellinghams, who were in poſſeſſion at leaſt 150 years. In 1746,

[d] Fuller's Worthies. [e] Placit. &c. de terris in Com. Bed. in Turr. Lond.

Thomas Ellingham conveyed it to John Capon and John Franklin. It is now the ſole property of John Franklin eſq. of Ruſhmore.

In the chapel at Stanbridge is a monument in memory of Henry Honner and Jane his wife, who lived together in wedlock about 60 years: he died in 1627, at the age of 95; ſhe in 1629, at the age of 86. There have been no burials in the other chapels, nor have they any cemeteries.

LIDLINGTON, or LITLINGTON, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke and deanery of Flitt, lies three miles and a half weſt of Ampthill, and about 8 miles ſouth-weſt of Bedford. The manor, which had been parcel of the poſſeſſions of the abbeſs and convent of Barking, was conveyed to King Henry VIII. by Dorothy Barleigh the laſt abbeſs, two years before the ſurrender of that monaſtery. Having for many years belonged to the family of Cheſter, who had a ſeat at Litlington, it was ſold by the repreſentatives of the laſt baronet, in 1769, to Mr. Iſaac Hawkins; who, in 1774, conveyed it to the late earl of Upper Oſſory. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, in conſequence of an exchange which took place in 1801, between the late duke, and the preſent earl of Oſſory.

The manor of Goldingtons, in this pariſh, belonged to a family of that name, one of whom lies buried in the pariſh church. On the tomb is his effigies on a braſs plate, in armour, with an imperfect date (148..) This eſtate belonged afterwards to the family of Reynes, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Dicons[g]. Soon after the year 1600 it was in the Snaggs [h], of Marſton-Morteyne, who poſſeſſed it for more than a century. It is now the property of Earl Spencer. The tithes of this pariſh were formerly appropriated to the abbey of Barking, in Eſſex. Under the Incloſure Act which paſſed in 1775, an allotment of land was aſſigned in lieu of tithes to the earl of Upper Oſſory, then impropriator. The rectorial allotment was included in the exchange before-mentioned.

LUTON, in the hundred of Flitt and deanery of Dunſtaple, is a conſiderable market town on the borders of Hertfordſhire. It lies on the road from London to Ampthill and Bedford, near the 31ſt mileſtone. The market, which is on Monday, is noted for its abundant ſupply of corn. It is of great antiquity, being mentioned in the ſurvey of Doomſday, where the tolls are valued at 100s. *per annum*. There are two annual fairs, April 18th and October 18th. The number of houſes in the pariſh, according to the returns made to Parliament in 1801, purſuant to the Population Act, was 612, of inhabitants 3095.

The manor of Luton, having been part of the royal demeſne, was given by

[g] Eſch. Edw VI. [h] Eſch Car. I.

William

William the Conqueror to Geoffrey, earl of Perch [i]. By a ſubſequent grant it became the property of Robert, earl of Glouceſter [k], and having again reverted to the crown, was granted by King Stephen, to Richard Waudari [l], and afterwards by King Richard I. to Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albemarle [m]. William Mareſhall, earl of Pembroke, who married the earl of Albemarle's daughter and heir, gave it to the famous Fulk de Brent, who, in 1216, obtained a confirmation from king John of the honour of Luton [n]. It is probable that the caſtle built at Luton in 1221, which is repreſented in the chronicle of Dunſtaple as having been very prejudicial to the neighbouring town, was one of the fortreſſes of this haughty and oppreſſive baron.

Upon the baniſhment of De Brent, Luton was re-granted to the earl of Pembroke, who, thus, as the above-mentioned Chronicle obſerves, recovered what with fooliſh prodigality had been given away [o]. Eleanor, widow of William Mareſhall, earl of Pembroke, ſiſter of king Henry III., who married to her ſecond huſband, Simon de Montford, Earl of Leiceſter, held the manor of Luton in dower till her death, which happened in 1274 [p]: it then devolved to the repreſentatives of Sibil, Counteſs of Derby, who was one of the co-heireſſes of William Mareſhall the elder, earl of Pembroke, and died many years before, leaving ſeven daughters, two of whom brought parts of this manor into the families of Mohun and Kyme [q]. From one of theſe it is probable a part paſſed to the family of Bonham, who had ſome ſhare of the manor in the reign of Edward II. [r]; but the greater part, and it is probable the whole eventually, became veſted by purchaſe of the other ſeveralties in the family of Hugh de Mortimer, who married Agatha, one of the co-heireſſes of the above-mentioned Counteſs of Derby. This branch of the Mortimers became extinct in the male line in the fourth generation after this match [s]. John Creſſey, as their couſin and heir, was lord of the manor of Luton in 1403 [t]. Soon after this it appears to have been veſted in the crown, for in 1406, king Henry V. granted the manor of Luton-Mortimer to John, Duke of Bedford, regent of France [u].

The next poſſeſſor on record is John Lord Wenlock, whoſe family appears to have owned eſtates in Luton at an earlier period [w]. Leland ſays, that this Lord Wenlock, who was killed at the battle of Tewkeſbury in 1472, left an heir-general,

[i] Dugdale's Baronage. [k] Lives of the abbots of St. Alban's, annexed to Mat. Paris. [l] Ibid. [m] Cart. Antiq. infra Tur. Lond. [n] Pat. 18 Joh. [o] Hearne's Chron. Dunſt. [p] Ibid. [q] Eſch. Edw. I. and Dugdale's Baronage. [r] Records of Luton manor communicated by Mr. Brown. [s] Dugdale. [t] Records of Luton Manor. [u] Pat. 4 Henry V.

[w] Lord Wenlock's grandfather was a Wyvell; he married into the family of Wenlock and aſſumed the name. [x] William Wenlock, prebendary of Brownſwood, who died in 1392, had eſtates in Luton. He was brother to Joan Wenlock, who married Lord Wenlock's grandfather. Sir Thomas Wenlock, who was knight of the ſhire in the three firſt years of King Henry VI. was, it is probable, of this family.

who married a kinſman of archbiſhop Rotheram, one of the founders of Lincoln-College in Oxford. Others have ſuppoſed that the Luton eſtates were granted by King Edward IV. to the archbiſhop, as attainted property [x]. The family alliance, mentioned by Leland, is not to be found in any of the pedigrees in the heralds college. It appears on record, that certain houſes in London which had devolved to the crown, not by the attainder, but by the death of Lord Wenlock without iſſue, were granted in 1475 to Thomas Rotheram, then biſhop of Lincoln [y]. The grant of Luton does not appear on record. It is certain that John Rotheram, brother of the biſhop, was lord of the manor of Luton and the hundred of Flitt in 1476 [z], and that Thomas Lawley eſq. who by pedigrees of the family, appears to have been heir-general of Lord Wenlock, conveyed Luton and ſeveral manors or farms in that pariſh to biſhop Rotheram, in 1477 [a]. This conveyance, it is probable, might have been obtained for the greater ſecurity of the title, even if there had been a grant from the crown. The manor of Luton continued in the Rotheram family till the year 1614, when it was purchaſed by Sir Robert Napier bart. of Merchеſton, in Scotland [b]. Sir John Napier, the laſt heir-male of that family, who died in 1747, bequeathed it to his aunt, Mrs. Frances Napier, by whoſe bequeſt it became the property of Francis Herne eſq. Mr. Herne, in 1763, ſold it to John, earl of Bute, whoſe ſon (created Marquis of Bute in 1796) is the preſent proprietor, and has his chief country ſeat at Luton-Hoo in this pariſh.

The manor of Hoo, or Luton-Hoo, was the ancient inheritance of the family of Hoo, or De Hoo, who are ſaid by Sir Henry Chauncy to have been ſettled there before the Norman conqueſt [c]. Sir Robert de Hoo was knight of the ſhire in the reign of Edward I. Sir Thomas Hoo, K. G. who was made Lord Hoo, of Hoo, in Bedfordſhire, and Lord Haſtings in 1447, died in 1454 without male iſſue. Anne, his only daughter by his ſecond wife, brought this manor in marriage to Sir Geffrey Boleyn, who was lord mayor of London in 1460. The tradition of the place is, that his great-grand-daughter, Anne Boleyn, queen to King Henry VIII. was born at this place. Her father ſold the manor of Luton-Hoo in 1523 to Richard Farmer, merchant, whoſe heir conveyed it in 1575 to John Brocket eſq. In 1601 it was purchaſed of Mr. Brocket's repreſentatives by Robert Napier eſquire [d], and paſſed with the manor of Luton to the Marquis of Bute.

Luton-Hoo, the marquis's ſeat, ſtands in the midſt of a well-wooded park about three miles from the town. The old park, which conſiſted of about 300 acres, incloſed by Sir Robert Napier, was enlarged to 1200 by the late Lord Bute,

[x] Hiſtory of Luton in Bib. Top. Brit. p. 14, 26, and 31. [y] Pat. 15 Edw. IV. [z] Records of Luton Manor. [a] Cl. 17 Edw. IV. [b] Records of Luton manor. [c] Hiſtory of Hertfordſhire. [d] Records of the manor.

who

who employed Brown to lay it out. It now contains about 1500 acres. The river Lea, which riſes in the neighbouring pariſh of Houghton-Regis, a little beyond Leagrave, a hamlet of this pariſh, runs through the park, where it ſupplies two pieces of water, the one containing 14, the other 50 acres. A part of the houſe at Luton-Hoo was rebuilt by the Napiers, but ſome parts of it appear to be of a more ancient date. The late Earl of Bute began building a very ſtately manſion on the ſite, from a deſign by Mr. Adam; the eaſt front and the ſouth wing only were completed. The principal rooms, particularly the library, which is 146 feet in length, the drawing-room and the ſaloon, are on a magnificent ſcale. The collection of pictures is very large and valuable, chiefly of the Italian and Flemiſh ſchools. Among the portraits are, Margaret queen of Scots, with her ſecond huſband Archibald Douglas; the firſt Earl of Pembroke, the Earl of Strafford, General Ireton, Mr. Pym, Mrs. Lane, who aſſiſted King Charles II. in his eſcape after the battle of Worceſter; Lord Chancellor Jeffreys, Ben Jonſon, Dr. Samuel Johnſon, Dr. Armſtrong, and the late Earl of Bute, by Sir Joſhua Reynolds. The chapel is fitted up with very rich Gothic carving in wood, ſaid to have been originally executed for Sir Thomas Pope at Tittenhanger in 1548, and brought to Luton by Sir Robert Napier. The late Earl of Bute formed a botanic garden at Luton, but he afterwards removed his valuable collection of plants to his ſeat at Chriſt-Church in Hampſhire.

Ancient records deſcribe ſeveral eſtates in this pariſh by the name of Manors, beſides thoſe already mentioned; as Fennel's Grove, Langley's, Bennett's, Northwood, Stapleforth, Eaſt-Hide, Weſt-Hide, Stoppeſley, Great Hampſted-Someries, Hayes, Bailiffs, Dallowe, Leagrave, Lightgrave, or Lucy's, Biſcot, &c. It is probable, that ſome of theſe originated from the diviſions and ſub-diviſions of the manor among the heirs of Sibella counteſs of Derby. None of them poſſeſs at preſent any manerial rights. The eight firſt are enumerated in the conveyance from Mr. Lawley to biſhop Rotherham. All traces of Bennett's and Northwood appear to be loſt. A wood, called Fennel's Grove, belongs to the Marquis of Bute. Langley's and Stapleforth are two farms, which paſſed to the Napiers, and now belong to the Marquis of Bute; the latter now forms part of Luton park. Eaſt-Hide, a reputed manor, which pays a quit-rent to the lord of the manor of Luton, was purchaſed in the early part of the laſt century by Philadelphia, relict of Sir Thomas Cotton bart. who, not long afterwards, ſold it to Mr. Floyer, Governor of Fort St. David. It was purchaſed of him by Dr. Betteſworth, chancellor of the dioceſe of London, who died in 1779, and is now the property and reſidence of his widow. The houſe was built by Lady Cotton. The manor of Weſt-Hide, *alias* Aynell's, belongs to the Marquis of Bute: Stoppeſley was anciently

in

in the Hoos; in queen Elizabeth's reign, this manor and Hayes belonged to the family of Cateſby [b], and were afterwards in the Cheynes [c]: Stoppeſley now belongs to the Marquis of Bute. Hayes, which is a ſmall eſtate within Stoppeſley, is the property of Mr. Morris. Dallowe and Bailiffs or Bailies both belong to the Marquis of Bute. Bailiffs was formerly in the family of Field [d], Dallowe in the Crawleys, of whom it was purchaſed by the Napiers.

The manor of Lightgrave, or Leagrave, was from 1305 to 1455 in the family of Lucy [e], and is preſumed to be the ſame, which, in the ſeventeenth century, being then called Lucy's, or Lewſy's, was in the family of Wingate [f]. This eſtate lying principally in the pariſh of Toddington, is now the Duke of Bedford's, having been purchaſed in 1782, of John Miller eſq. by the truſtees under his grand-father's will. The manor of Biſcot, or Limbury-*cum*-Biſcot, which was alſo in the Wingates [g], is now the property of John Crawley eſq.

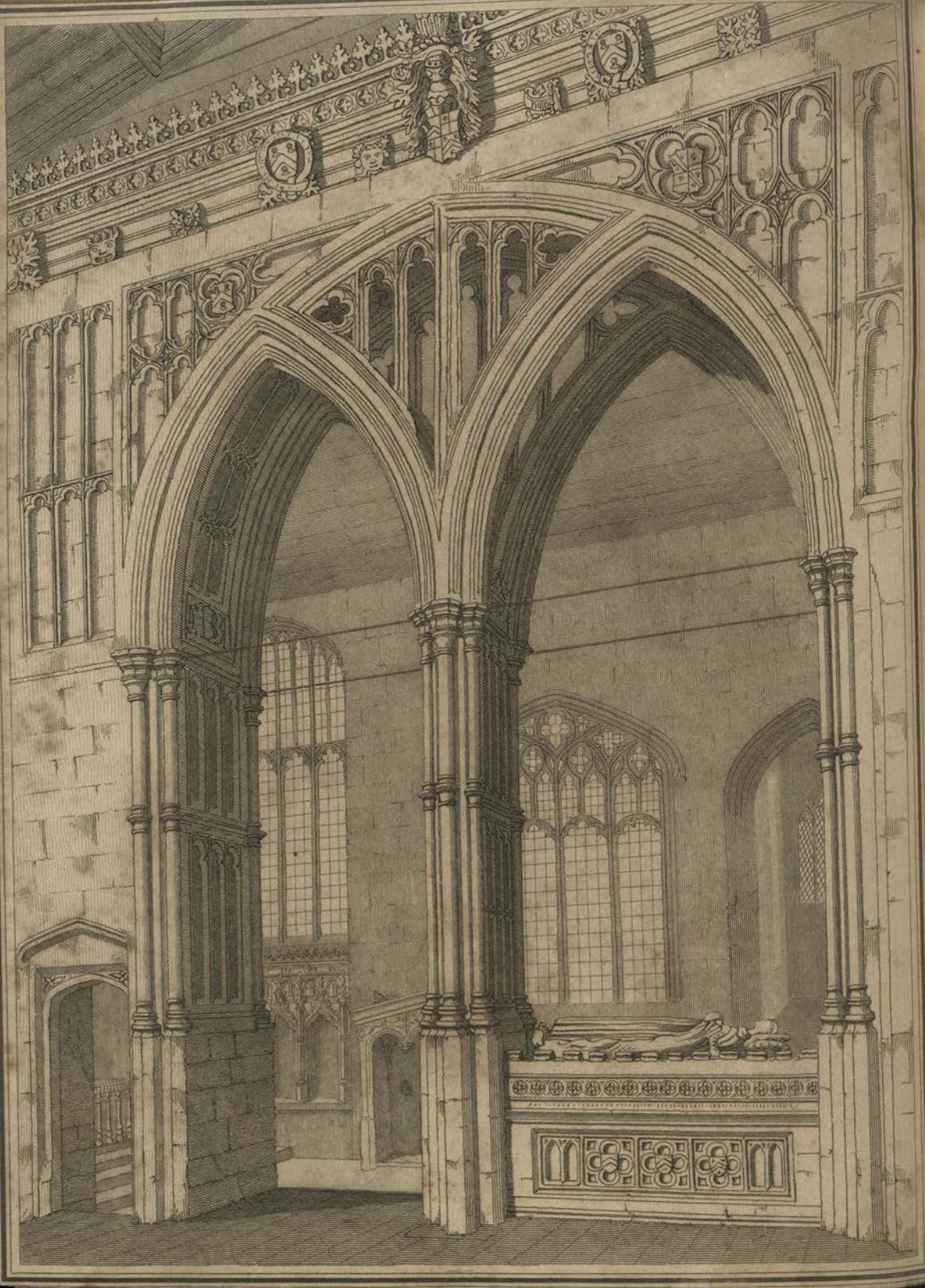
The manor of Great Hampſted was, as early as the year 1309, in the baronial family of Somery [h]. In 1464, it was conveyed to Lord Wenlock by the name of Great Hampſted-Someries [i]. This eſtate paſſed from the Rotherhams to the Crawleys. A field called Grathamſted, being the ſite of the reputed manor or manor-farm of Great Hampſted or Grathamſted, is ſtill the property of John Crawley eſq. whoſe anceſtors were poſſeſſed alſo of another farm, now the Marquis of Bute's, called Someries, where are the remains of an ancient manſion, ſuppoſed to have been begun and left unfiniſhed by Lord Wenlock; but they appear to be of a more recent date, and are probably the ruins of a manſion belonging to Sir John Rotherham, who certainly reſided at Someries, which came to the Crawleys by the marriage of his daughter with Sir Francis Crawley, one of the Juſtices of the Common Pleas [k], who died in 1649. John Crawley, grandfather of Sir Francis, was of Nether-Crawley in the pariſh of Luton. His deſcendant, John Crawley eſq., has a ſeat called Stockwood in this pariſh.

Beſides thoſe already mentioned, the Marquis of Bute has two other inferior manors in this pariſh, called Brach and Farley. Brach belonged to the Rotherams and Napiers, and was purchaſed by the late Earl of Bute, with the Luton eſtate, of Mr. Herne. Farley was part of the poſſeſſions of the abbot and convent of St. Alban's; it was afterwards the ſeat of a branch of the Rotherams. King James, on his progreſs in 1605, ſpent a night at Sir John Rotherham's near Luton [l].

At Farley or Farleigh, which is about two miles from Luton, was an ancient hoſpital given by King Henry II. to the great foreign hoſpital of Santingfield in Picardy,

[b] Eſch. Eliz. [c] Eſch. Car. 1. [d] Eſch. Eliz. [e] Eſch. Edw. I—Edw. IV.
[f] Eſch. Car. 1. [g] Ibid. [h] Eſch. 2 Edw. II. [i] Cl. 3 Edw. IV.
[k] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum. [l] Leland's Collectanea, vol. i. p. 626.

to



to which the maſter and brethren of Farleigh were made ſubordinate [m]. William Wenlock, prebendary of Brownſwood, was made maſter of this hoſpital in 1379 [n]. Having been ſeized by King Henry VI. as belonging to an alien houſe, it was given by him to the Provoſt and Scholars of King's College in Cambridge [o]. The maſter of Farley hoſpital appears to have had a manor in Farley [p]. It is probable, that it was the ſame which belongs to the Marquis of Bute, and that the Provoſt and Scholars of King's College, who have not at preſent any eſtate in Luton, conveyed it to the abbot and convent of St. Alban's, in exchange for other lands.

The pariſh church of Luton is a handſome Gothic ſtructure: the tower is compoſed of flint and other ſtones in chequer-work. The chancel was built by John Whethamſted, abbot of St. Alban's, in the 15th century. On the ſouth ſide are four ſtone ſeats richly ornamented; in the ſpandrils are the arms of Edward the Confeſſor, the kingdom of Mercia, the abbey of St. Alban's, king Offa, abbot Whethamſted, &c. Above is the abbot's motto *Valles abundabunt*. There is a chapel on the north ſide of the chancel, ſeparated from it by two lofty and elegant Gothic arches. The following inſcription, preſerved in an heraldic manuſcript in the Britiſh Muſeum [q], ſhews that it was built by Sir John Wenlock, before the year 1461; for, in that year, he was created baron Wenlock.

"Jeſu Chriſt moſt of myght,
Have mercy on John Le Wenlock Knight,
And on his wife Elizabeth,
Who out of this world is paſt by death,
Which founded this chapel here,
Help them with your hearty prayer,
That they may come to that place,
Where ever is joy and ſolace."

This inſcription, and the portrait of Lord Wenlock, which was formerly in the eaſt window [r], have been deſtroyed or removed. The arms of Wenlock ſtill remain quartered with Hoo, and ſurrounded by the garter. The ſame arms are over the ſcreen which divides the chapel from the chancel, impaling thoſe of Lady Wenlock, who was daughter and co-heir of Sir John Drayton. Under one of the arches is an altar-tomb, on which is the effigies of an eccleſiaſtic in his robes, ſuppoſed to be that of William Wenlock, prebendary of Brownſwood in the cathedral church of St. Paul, and maſter of the hoſpital of Farleigh, who died in 1392, and directed his body to be buried at Luton. The inſcriptions on the tomb appear to confirm

[m] Tanner. [n] Hiſtory of Luton, p. 36. [o] Pat. 26 Hen. VI. Pt. 1.
[p] Pope Nicholas's Taxation. [q] Harl. MSS. No. 1531.
[r] Hiſtory of Luton, p. 17.

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the conjecture; but the arms, which are ſeveral times repeated, (Arg. a chevron between three croſs croſlets G.) are not thoſe of Wenlock. It is poſſible that they might have been borne by the hoſpital of Farleigh, or that of Santingfield, to which it was ſubordinate. The tomb, if it be that of William De Wenlock above mentioned, muſt have exiſted before the arch was built, and was probably removed to its preſent ſituation by Lord Wenlock (who appears to have been great-nephew of the prebendary), when he founded the chapel. The following inſcriptions have been frequently, but very erroneouſly, printed; they are imperfect, but what remains is very legible.

On the north ſide:—

"In Wenlok brad I
In this toun Lordſchipes had I
Her am I now fady
Chriſtes moder help me Lady
Under thes ſtones
For a tym ſchal I reſte my bones
Dey mot I ned ones
Myghtful God grant me thy wones."

On the ſouth ſide:—

"—illelmus ſic tumulatus
De Wenlok natus,
In ordine preſbiteratus,
Alter hujus ville
Dominus meus fuit ille
Hic licet indignus
Anime Deus eſto benignus."

It is probable that Elizabeth Lady Wenlock was buried in this chapel, and that Lord Wenlock intended it for his own place of ſepulture; but loſing his life in the battle of Tewkeſbury, he was buried in the conventual church at that place, where an altar-tomb in the north wall of the nave has been aſcribed to him; though, as the arms on the ſurcoat of the recumbent figure are not thoſe of Wenlock, it is more probable that it was intended for ſome other perſon. Le Neve has doubted the fact of Lord Wenlock's being ſlain at Tewkeſbury, from the circumſtance of his having found the will of John Wenlock, bearing date 1477, ſubſequent to that battle[s]. It certainly, however, was not the will of Lord Wenlock, for King Edward IV. in 1475 granted certain houſes in London, which had eſcheated to the crown by the death of John Lord Wenlock without iſſue, to the biſhop of Lincoln[t]. There is no reaſon, therefore, for doubting the accuracy of our hiſtorians on this point.

[s] See Hiſtory of Luton, p. 46. [t] Pat. 15 Edw. IV.

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In the Wenlock chapel are ſeveral altar-tombs, ſtripped of their braſſes. It appears by ſome ancient heraldic notes in the Britiſh Muſeum [u], that they are the tombs of the Rotherams of Someries. One of them was that of Sir Thomas Rotheram, nephew of the archbiſhop of York, who married Katharine, only child of Anthony Lord Grey of Ruthin, ſon of Edmund Earl of Kent. This Anthony Lord Grey, who is erroneouſly ſuppoſed to have died without iſſue, lies buried in the ſame chapel, where alſo were depoſited the remains of Sir Francis Crawley, one of the Juſtices of the Common Pleas, who, having incurred the diſpleaſure of Parliament for favouring the claims of King Charles I. in the buſineſs of the ſhip-money, was removed from his ſituation. He died in 1649. His ſon Francis Crawley, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, who died in 1682, is buried alſo in this chapel.

In the north aiſle were the monuments of the Rotherams of Farleigh [w]. John Rotheram of this family was Baron of the Exchequer in 1652 [x]. In the north aiſle was alſo the tomb of John Hay, ſteward to the archbiſhop of Canterbury, who repaired the church of Luton at his own charge, and died in 1454 [y].

At the weſt end of the ſouth aiſle is the mutilated figure of an eccleſiaſtic, holding a croſs. In the ſame aiſle is the tomb of John Betteſworth, LL. D. chancellor of the dioceſe of London, who died in 1779. In the north tranſept is the tomb of John Ackworth eſq. who died in 1513. The following motley inſcription, excepting the three firſt words, which have been removed, remains on a braſs plate round the verge:

["*O man, whoe'er*] thou be! timor mortis ſhowlde trowble thee; for when thou leeſt wenyſt, veniet te mors ſuperare, and ſo .....grave grevys, ergo mortis memoreris. Jeſu Mercy, Lady help."

At the weſt end of the nave is an elegant Gothic baptiſtery, of an octagonal form. (See p. 31.)

William, the king's chamberlain, had the church of Luton at the time of the Norman ſurvey. It was afterwards annexed to the manor, when in the poſſeſſion of Robert Earl of Glouceſter. Robert, abbot of St. Alban's, procured it for his convent of Robert Waudari, to whom King Stephen had given Luton upon the Earl of Glouceſter's rebellion. King Henry II. afterwards ſeized on this church as part of the royal demeſne, but, by the interceſſion of the abbot, reſtored it to the convent; and the tithes were then appropriated to defray the expence of entertaining ſtrangers [z]. The Marquis of Bute has now two thirds of the impropriation. The great tithes of Stoppeſley, which were granted by Queen Mary to Sir Thomas

[u] Harl. MSS. 1531. [w] Hiſt. of Luton. [x] Ant. Wood. [y] Hiſt. of Luton.
[z] Lives of the Abbots of St. Alban's, annexed to Mat. Paris, p. 1017.

Pope, and by him given to Trinity College in Oxford, are held by his Lordſhip as leſſee under that college: the remainder belongs to Mr. Crawley. The Marquis is patron of the vicarage.

Thomas Pomfret, father of the poet, was firſt curate, and then vicar, of Luton. Dr. Johnſon ſays that John Pomfret, the poet, died in 1703, in the 36th year of his age. Thomas, ſon of Mr. Thomas Pomfret and Mrs. Catharine his wife, was baptized at Luton, March 12, 1667, as appears by the pariſh regiſter. It is remarkable, that this entry agrees with the poet's age; and that, among a numerous family, all of whom were baptized at Luton, the name of John does not occur.

There was a fraternity in the church of Luton, dedicated to the Holy Trinity; a regiſter-book of which, containing the accounts of the brotherhood from the year 1528 to 1547, with many curious particulars relating to their anniverſaries, feaſts, &c. is in the poſſeſſion of the Marquis of Bute.

MARSTON-MORTEYNE, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke, and deanery of Flitt, lies about ſeven miles ſouth-weſt of Bedford, and about four from Ampthill. It had formerly a market on Tueſdays, and a fair at Lady-Day, granted to John De Morteyne[b], who was ſeveral times knight of the ſhire. The Morteynes held this manor many years under the barony of Cainhoe. It was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Reynes, Dicons[c], and Snagg[d]. The laſt heir male of the Snaggs ſerved the office of ſheriff in 1705. It is preſumed, that the manor was purchaſed of his repreſentatives by the Ducheſs of Marlborough, and by her bequeathed, with the reſt of her Bedfordſhire eſtates, to her grandſon, the Hon. John Spencer. It is now the property of Earl Spencer.

The manor of Nether Shelton in this pariſh, which had belonged to the priory of Caldwell, was formerly in the Cheyne family[e]. It is now the property of John Foſter eſq.

The pariſh church is a handſome Gothic building: the tower, which is ſquare, and maſſive, ſtands detached from it. In the chancel is an altar-tomb, with the effigies, on a braſs plate, of Thomas Reynes eſq. lord of the manor, who died in 1451, and his wife Alice. There are ſeveral monuments of the family of Snagg. The advowſon of the rectory is veſted in the maſter and ſcholars of St. John's College in Cambridge. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of Parliament paſſed in 1796, but the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

*Wroxill*, a hamlet in this pariſh, had formerly a chapel of eaſe, dedicated to St. Leonard the Martyr: it was endowed with glebe, and the tithes of the hamlet[f].

[b] Cart. 17 Edw. II. [c] Thomas Dicons, who inherited by marriage with the heireſs of Reynes, died in 1549. Eſch. [d] Eſch. Car. I. [e] Eſch. Eliz. [f] Chantry Roll in the Augmentation Office.

There

There are now no traces of the building. The manor of Wroxill, in the fifteenth century, was in the family of Saunderſon [g], afterwards in the Cateſbys [h]; it is now the property of Mr. James Bayly.

The manor of Hoe, which was parcel of the barony of Trally, deſcribed in ancient records as in this pariſh, is now conſidered to be in the adjoining pariſh of Wotton.

MAULDEN, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke, and deanery of Flitt, lies about a mile and a half from Ampthill. The manor belonged to the priory of Elſtow, and afterwards to the Carys. King James, in 1617, granted it, on failure of male iſſue from Henry Cary, Lord Hunſdon, to Sir John Boteler [i]. After ſeveral conveyances, it became the property of Sir Thomas Dacres, who in 1635 ſold it to the Earl of Elgin, of Houghton Park, in the adjoining pariſh. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whoſe grandfather purchaſed it of the Earl of Ayleſbury, in 1738.

In the church are ſome memorials of the ancient family of Faldo, who were ſettled here before the reign of Edward III [k]. They are now extinct. Adjoining the church is a mauſoleum, of an octagonal form, erected in 1656 by Thomas Earl of Elgin, in memory of his ſecond wife Diana, daughter of Lord Burleigh, and relict of John Earl of Oxford. In the centre is a figure, in white marble, of the Counteſs in her ſhroud riſing out of an oval ſarcophagus. Mr. Pennant, in his Journey from Cheſter, ſays the common people called it the Lady in the punch-bowl. The mauſoleum is ſurrounded by niches, ſuppoſed to have been intended for the ſtatues of her deſcendants. One only is occupied, containing that of her huſband, who died in 1663. On the floor is a buſt of her grandſon Edward Bruce eſq. eldeſt ſon of Robert Lord Bruce. Underneath the mauſoleum is a columbarium, the burial-place of the Earl of Ayleſbury's family. The earl is patron of the rectory. An act for incloſing the pariſh paſſed in 1796, when an allotment of land was given to the rector in lieu of tithes, and an allotment aſſigned to the poor in lieu of their right to peat from Maulden Moor. John Pomfret, the poet, was rector of Maulden.

MELCHBORN, in the hundred of Stodden, and deanery of Eaton, lies near the borders of Northamptonſhire, about 12 miles north of Bedford. It had formerly a market on Fridays, and a fair at the feſtival of St. Mary Magdalen, granted in 1264 to the knights-hoſpitallers [l], to whom Adeliza de Clermont, wife of Gil-

[g] Cl. 38 Hen. VI. [h] Eſch. Eliz. [i] Duke of Bedford's Records. [k] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum. [l] Cart. 49 Hen. III.

bert de Tonbridge, Earl of Clare, gave the preceptory of Melchborn; her grandſon, Roger, Earl of Clare, gave them the manor and church [m].

Leland, who was at Melchborn in 1538, ſpeaks of the preceptory as "a right "fair place of ſquare ſtone ſtanding much upon pillerd vaultes of ſtone, with good-"ly gardeins, orchards, and ponds, and a parke thereby [n]." The preceptory he calls an ancient ſtructure, but ſays that the hall was built by Sir William Weſton, the laſt prior of the knights-hoſpitallers. The preceptory, which was valued at 241l. 9s. 10½d. *per annum*, was granted to the hoſpitallers on the re-eſtabliſhment of their order by Queen Mary, in 1558, and upon their ſecond ſuppreſſion, was given by Queen Elizabeth, to the firſt Earl of Bedford [o]. It has been many years in the noble family of St. John, and ſince they have forſaken Bletſoe, has been their chief reſidence. The houſe appears to have been built about the reign of King James or Charles I.: the front has been moderniſed. In the drawing room are portraits of Margaret, counteſs of Richmond, and the firſt Lord St. John, of Bletſoe. The preſent Lord St. John has improved the gardens, and has built ſeveral hot-houſes and conſervatories for the culture of exotics.

The pariſh church was modernized and neatly fitted up by the late Mr. Whitbread, Lady St. John's father. A braſs plate is preſerved in memory of Robert Pavely eſq. who died in 1377. The St. Johns inherited conſiderable property in Bedfordſhire by a marriage with the heireſs of this family. An organ was put up at Melchborn in 1800, by Lord St. John, who maintains an organiſt at his own expence. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the knights-hoſpitallers, are now veſted in Lord St. John, who is patron of the vicarage.

MEPPERSHALL, or MEPSHALL, in the hundred of Clifton, lies about two miles ſouth of Shefford. The manor was, at an early period, in the family of Mepperſhall, who held it by the ſervice of attending the king in his wars with a horſe of no fixed price, a coat of mail, a ſword, lance, iron head-piece, and a little knife [p]. They continued in poſſeſſion as late as the year 1453 [q]; ſoon after which, their eſtates paſſed by marriage to the Botelers [r]. The manor of Mepperſhall now belongs to the daughters of the late Thomas Poynter eſq. to whoſe family it paſſed by purchaſe, from the Fleetwoods, about the year 1768. A moated ſite near the church-yard was, it is probable, the ſeat of the Mepperſhalls.

The manor of Polehanger, in this pariſh, which belonged to the priory of Chickſand, is now the property of Sir George Oſborn bart.

[m] Dugdale. [n] Leland's Itin. [o] Tanner. [p] Blount's Tenures. [q] Eſch. Edw. II.—Henry VI.
[r] See Eſch. 31 and 39 Henry VI.

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The monaſtery of Warden had an eſtate in this pariſh called Woodhull Grange. Soon after the Reformation it was in the noble family of Grey, and is now, by inheritance, the property of Lady Lucas.

In the pariſh church are tombs of the Mepperſhalls and Botelers, with their effigies in braſs. The advowſon of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Shefford, is veſted in the maſter and ſcholars of St. John's College, Cambridge. The circumſtance of this pariſh being ſituated in two counties, is noticed in the ſurvey of Domeſday; a part of it is in an inſulated portion of Hertfordſhire. The dining parlour of the old parſonage houſe, which ſtood within a moated ſite, and has lately been removed, was on the boundary of the two counties. The beam had the following inſcription, alluding to this circumſtance:

"If you wiſh to go into Hertfordſhire,
Hitch a little nearer the fire."

The preſent parſonage-houſe ſtands alſo in the two counties. The church is in Bedfordſhire.

Near this place, in Hertfordſhire, is an ancient chapel dedicated to St. Thomas, of which a farther account will be given in the deſcription of that county.

MILBROOK, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke and deanery of Flitt, is a ſmall village, ſcarcely a mile from Ampthill. At this place was a cell of Benedictine monks, belonging to the abbey of St. Alban's, which was removed about the year 1119, by Geffrey, the 16th abbot of that monaſtery, to Moddry, otherwiſe Beaulieu, in Hertfordſhire[s], the prior of which place had a grant of free warren in Milbrook, in 1294[t]. The manor having belonged ſucceſſively to the St. Amands and Beauchamps, was purchaſed of the latter by Sir John Cornwall, who, in 1442, was created Baron of Milbrook. Not long after the death of this brave officer, who was better known by his other title of Lord Fanhope, Milbrook became veſted in the crown, and was annexed to the honour of Ampthill. The leaſe of the manor is now veſted in the Earl of Upper-Oſſory, in conſequence of an exchange with the late Duke of Bedford, who was leſſee of the honor of Ampthill.

The pariſh church ſtands on a hill which overhangs the village. From the church-yard is an extenſive proſpect over the vale of Bedford. In the church windows are the arms of Lord Fanhope, with the garter. In the chancel is a tablet to the memory of Dr. George Lawſon, rector, who died in 1684. He was employed by his patron, Robert, earl of Ayleſbury, in ſeveral confidential meſſages relating

[s] Lives of the Abbots of St. Alban's annexed to Mat. Paris 1008. [t] Cart. 22 Edw. I.

to

to the Reſtoration. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1795, when a ſmall allotment of land was given to the rector, who was farther compenſated by a corn rent, charged on lands allotted to the Earl of Oſſory, who is patron of the rectory. The rector had an allotment alſo in lieu of fern, on Milbrook warren, and there was an allotment to the poor for fuel.

MILTON-BRYANT, more properly MILTON-BRYEN, in the hundred of Manſhead, and deanery of Dunſtaple, lies about two miles from Woburn, a little to the north of the London road. The family of Bryen, and the abbot of Woburn had anciently manors in this pariſh [u]. Since the Reformation the manor of Milton-Bryant has been ſucceſſively in the families of Stanton [w] and Johnſon. It is now the property and ſeat of Sir Hugh Inglis, whoſe firſt wife was the daughter and ſole heireſs of the late Henry Johnſon eſq. Sir Hugh was created a baronet in 1801. Robert Fitz-Bryen, gave the advowſon of the rectory to Merton abbey, in the reign of Henry II [x]. It is now in the crown. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1793, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of his glebe, and a corn rent, in lieu of tithes.

MILTON-ERNEST, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Clopham, lies about five miles from Bedford, on the road to Higham-Ferrers. It took its name from the family of Erneys, Harneys, or Erneſt, (for they are thus variouſly deſcribed in records,) who poſſeſſed the manor from the year 1316 [y], or earlier, till 1542, when it paſſed to the family of Turnor, of Haverill in Suffolk, by marriage with the heireſs of Sir Walter Erneſt [z]. Sir Chriſtopher Turnor, baron of the Exchequer, was of this family, poſſeſſed the eſtate, reſided at Milton, and lies buried in the pariſh church. His ſons ſold the manor to Sir Thomas Rolt of Sacomb, of whoſe widow it was re-purchaſed, about the year 1700, by Sir Edmund Turnor, younger brother of the judge, and his grandſon John. In 1719, Edmund Turnor eſq. of Stoke-Rochford, ſold it to Sir George Byng, afterwards Viſcount Torrington, who had married Margaret Maſter, a grand-daughter of Sir Chriſtopher Turnor. It was afterwards the property of Mrs. Stukely, ſiſter of Margaret, Lady Torrington, who bequeathed it to Withers Bramſton eſq. of Hall-Place, near Baſingſtoke. In 1799, Mr. Bramſton ſold it to Mr. Robert Gibbins, the preſent proprietor.

The manor of Baſſets, in this pariſh, was for a conſiderable time in the family of

[u] Nomina Villarum, in the Britiſh Muſeum. N° 6281, Harl. MSS. [w] Eſch. Car. I.
[x] Manning's Hiſtory of Surrey, I. 251. [y] Nomina Villarum. [z] From the information of Edmund Turnor eſq. F.R.S. and F.A.S.

Rolt,

Rolt, of Milton, a branch of the Rolts of Sacomb. It is now the property of Mrs. Boyden. There is a third manor called Babbs, which is now in ſeveralties, between T. Fiſher eſq. Mr. Ellis Shipley, and Mr. Samuel Wyatt.

In the pariſh church are monuments of the families of Turnor and Rolt. The great tithes of this pariſh were appropriated to the abbey of St. Alban's. In the reign of Charles I. the rectory belonged to the family of Franklyn. Sir Edmund Turnor, who, it is probable, purchaſed of the Franklyns, in the year 1693 muficently endowed the vicarage with the great tithes, then let at 100l. *per annum*, and a parſonage houſe. His deſcendant, Edmund Turnor eſq. of Panton, in Lincolnſhire, is the preſent patron. Among many other acts of charity for which Sir Edmund Turnor ſtands recorded as a public benefactor, is the foundation of an almshouſe at this place in the year 1695, for ſix poor perſons, which he endowed with lands in Milton, Clapham, and Oakley, now let at 34l. *per annum*. An act of Parliament paſſed for incloſing the pariſh in 1803, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the vicar in lieu of the great and ſmall tithes.

NORTHILL, in the hundred of Wixamtree, and deanery of Shefford, about eight miles nearly eaſt of Bedford, was called in ancient records North-Yevel. It was parcel of the barony of Trally, or Traylly. Sir John Traylly, the laſt heir-male of that family (who were not ſummoned to Parliament as barons later than the reign of King John [z]), died ſeiſed of it in 1350 [a]. It is now the property of John Harvey eſq. of Ickwell-bury who purchaſed it, in 1802, of John Robinſon eſq. of Denſton-Hall, in the county of Suffolk. An anceſtor of Mr. Robinſon's, nearly a century ago, married an heireſs of the Bromſall family, who were for a conſiderable time proprietors of this manor. Owen Thomas Bromſall eſq. who is ſuppoſed to have been the laſt heir-male of the family, was buried at Northill in 1731.

The manors of Thorncote, Hatch, Brookend, and Budna, which belonged for many years to the Bromſalls, were purchaſed of Mr. Thomas Smith, of Gray's-Inn, by the preſent proprietor, Godfrey Thornton eſq. of Moggerhanger.

The manors of Upper and Lower Caldecot, and the manor of Ickwell, have been, for more than a century, in the family of the preſent proprietor, John Harvey eſq. who has a ſeat in this pariſh called Ickwell-bury. Mr. Harvey has two other eſtates, called the manors of Hartſholm and Blundells, in the two Caldecots. Mr. Fyſhe Palmer has a ſeat at Ickwell, which he inherits from the Fyſhes. Humphrey Fyſhe eſq. of Ickwell, was ſheriff of the county in 1684. Another manor of Caldecot, in Northill, having been previouſly in the families of Fyſhe, Moore, Ratchford, and Vaughan, was conveyed in 1714, to Mrs. Stukely,

[z] Dugdale. [a] Eſch. 34 Edw. III.

whoſe

whoſe nephew, the Hon. John Byng, ſold it to Mr. Thomas Smith of Gray's Inn.

The pariſh church, a large and handſome Gothic ſtructure, is ſuppoſed to have been built in the beginning of Henry IV.'s reign; at which time it was made collegiate by Sir Gerard Braybroke, one of Sir John Traylly's executors. In the roof of the porch, which is of ſtone, are the arms of Traylly, a croſs flory between four martlets. Northill college was founded in the year 1405, for a warden or maſter, and a diſcretionary number of fellows, chaplains, or miniſters, who were to pray for the ſouls of Sir John Traylly and Reginald his ſon, both then deceaſed[b]. The lands belonging to this college, valued at 61l. 5s. 3d. *per annum*, were granted, in 1548, to William Fitzwilliam[c].

In the chancel of Northill church are monuments of the Harveys of Ickwell-bury; and the following epitaph for Capel Berrow, a theological writer of ſome note, author of a treatiſe "On the Lapſe of human Souls," who was forty years curate of the pariſh: "Quicquid fuit mortale Rev^i. Capel Berrow, A. M. Hon^imi. Gul. Comitis Cowper à ſacris, ſub hoc marmore conditur; immortale vero ut pium eſt credere, cœlum conſcendit beatorum ordinibus aſcribendum. Quippe ſi quem virtus egregia, ſingularis humanitas, cultuſque numinis fervidus ac frequens, meritò commendant, hunc integerrima plane vita, facile ingenium ac liberale ut animus uni ſceleri infenſus, laudibus abunde cumularunt. Hujus paroch. 40 circiter annos paſtor miro quodam impetu verborum et delectu munus divinum illuſtravit; et quid verum atque decens non dixiſſe ſolum viſus eſt orator ſed inſpirantem ſui cordis tabulam, etiam et tranſcripſiſſe. Patri quidem optime promerito, 5 Cal. Nov. 1751, vita defuncto æt. anno 70, hoc pietatis et affectus monumentum filii lugentes poſuere." The eaſt window of the chancel is fitted up with ſtained glaſs, by J. Oliver, conſiſting of the royal arms, thoſe of the grocers' company, and of ſeveral of their maſters and wardens; and the arms of Margaret Lady Slayny, with whoſe money, given in truſt to the grocers' company for charitable purpoſes, the impropriate rectory and advowſon of Northill, formerly belonging to the collegiate church, were purchaſed in 1664. The grocers' company preſent to the benefice, now called a rectory, having ſince that time been endowed with ſuch of the great and ſmall tithes as were included in the purchaſe, viz. the great tithes of Beeſton, Thorncot, Hatch, Budna, and Brookend, with ſome few exceptions, and the whole of the ſmall tithes, excepting thoſe of the college farm, and a few other lands. Mr. Harvey of Ickwell-bury has the great tithes of Northill, Ickwell, and the two Caldecots, with ſome few exceptions. Allotments of land were made to the ſeveral proprietors of tithes under an incloſure act, which paſſed in the year

[b] Pat. 6 Hen. IV. [c] Tanner.

1780.

1780. Some further allotments for tithes appear to have been made to the incumbent of Northill, under an act which paſſed in 1796 for the incloſing of this pariſh and Blunham.

OAKLEY, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Clopham, lies on the banks of the Ouſe, about four miles north-weſt of Bedford. The manor was, at an early period, in the baronial family of Argentine[a]; it was afterwards held by the family of Reynes under the Lords Roos[b], and acquired the name of Oakley Reynes. It became veſted in the crown, on the attainder of Lord Vaux in 1464[c]. A younger ſon of the firſt Lord Mordaunt ſettled at Oakley in the ſixteenth century: it is probable that he acquired the manor either by grant or purchaſe. His deſcendants were certainly poſſeſſed of it in 1679; in which year it was alienated to Sir Creſſwell Levinz, one of the Juſtices of the Common Pleas[d]. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whoſe grandfather purchaſed it of the Levinz family in 1737. The Duke has a villa at Oakley, pleaſantly ſituated on the banks of the Ouſe, which was his country-ſeat before he ſucceeded to the title.

The pariſh church appears to have been built by one of the family of Reynes, who lies buried under an Ogie arch in the ſouth wall, where is his effigies in robes, on an altar-tomb, with his arms, and two other coats. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Caldwell, are now veſted in the provoſt and fellows of Eton College, who are patrons of the vicarage. The Duke of Bedford is leſſee under the College. An Act of Parliament paſſed for incloſing this pariſh in 1803, when allotments of land in lieu of tithes were aſſigned to the impropriators, and to the vicar.

ODELL, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies upon the banks of the Ouſe, one mile from Harold, and about ten miles north-weſt of Bedford, on the borders of Northamptonſhire. In 1222 William Fitzwarren had a grant of a market at this place on Thurſdays[e]. The next year a prohibition was iſſued, commanding that the market ſhould not be held, if it proved detrimental to the neighbouring market of Olney in Buckinghamſhire[f]. It is moſt probable there was then no market at Harold. The market at Odell was confirmed in 1242[g], but has long been diſuſed. A fair is held annually on the Thurſday and Friday in Whitſun-week.

Odell, anciently called Wahul or Wodhull, was the ſeat of an ancient barony, belonging, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, to Walter Flandrenſis, whoſe poſte-

[a] Cart. Edw. II. [b] Eſch. 17 Edw. III. [c] Eſch. 4 Edw. IV. [d] Duke of Bedford's Records. [e] Cart. 6 Hen. III. [f] Cart. 7 Hen. III. [g] Cart. 26 Hen. III.

rity were called De Wahul [h]. Several manors in Bedfordſhire, Northamptonſhire, and Buckinghamſhire, were parcels of the barony. The family of Wahul were not ſummoned to parliament after the reign of Edward I. but they continued in the male line, and called themſelves the Lords Wahul till the reign of Henry VIII. when the heir female of Anthony, titular Lord Wahul, married Richard Chetwode, a younger ſon of Roger Chetwode eſq. of Oakley in Staffordſhire [i]. Sir Richard Chetwode, in the reign of James the Firſt, being poſſeſſed of the manor of Odell, made an unſucceſsful attempt to obtain the title of Lord Wahul, by petition to the Houſe of Lords. His deſcendant, Knightly Chetwode, renewed the claim about the middle of the laſt century, but with no better ſucceſs [k]. The manor of Great Wodhull or Odell had been long before ſold by the Chetwodes to the Alſtons [l]. Sir Thomas Alſton of Odell was created a baronet in 1642. The preſent baronet, Sir John Alſton, reſides in Cambridgeſhire. Odell is the ſeat and property of Thomas Alſton eſq.

Leland, who viſited Bedfordſhire in the reign of Henry VIII. deſcribes Odell Caſtle as "ſtrange ruins belonging to the Lord Bray." It ſeems difficult to reconcile this with its deſcent from the Lords Wahul to the Chetwodes, which is proved by various records. Odell Caſtle ſtands on an eminence, and commands a beautiful view of the river Ouſe, and the adjacent country: very little remains of the old building; the preſent houſe is chiefly modern. The ſouth front was built by Lady Wolſtenholme, relict of Sir Rowland Alſton, who died in 1698.

The manor of Little Odell was, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, part of the eſtate of Euſtace Earl of Boloigne; and continued, for a conſiderable time, to be part of the honor of Boloigne, but was afterwards annexed to the barony of Wahul [m].

The pariſh church is a handſome Gothic building, and has ſeveral monuments of the family of Alſton. The chantry-roll for Bedfordſhire [n] mentions, that there was an endowment, before the Reformation, for the maintenance of a lamp in this church, and for a *drinking*, that is, a church ale. Mr. Alſton is patron of the rectory. In 1556 Sir Oſwald Butler, rector of Odell, did penance in the pariſh church, by order of Cardinal Pole, for living with his wife [o]. The pariſh of Odell has been incloſed under an Act of Parliament which paſſed in 1776, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

PAVENHAM, or PAVINGHAM, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies about ſix miles north-weſt of Bedford. The manor was anciently in the

[h] See Cooper's Hiſtory of Odell, in Bibl. Top. Brit. [i] Ibid. [k] Ibid. [l] Ibid. [m] Ibid.
[n] In the Augmentation Office. [o] Hiſtory of Odell.

Pabenhams,

Pabenhams [p], from whom it paſſed, by an heir female, to the Tyringhams [q]. It has ſince been, for a conſiderable time, in the Alſton family, and is now the property of Thomas Alſton eſq. The Maſter and Scholars of Trinity College in Cambridge have a manor, and the impropriate rectory of this pariſh, and are patrons of the vicarage, which is united to Felmerſham. In the church are tombs of the families of Alſton and Franklyn. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament, in 1769, when allotments of land in lieu of tithes were aſſigned to the impropriators, and to the vicar. Stafford bridge over the Ouſe, with a cauſey of thirty-five arches, paſſable for carriages, but without a fence, is in this pariſh.

PERTENHALL, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, lies on the borders of Huntingdonſhire, about three miles from Kimbolton. The manor was anciently in the Peyvres [r] and Dayrells; from the latter it paſſed by purchaſe to the Mowbrays [s]. Sir William Compton, being ſeiſed of it in 1518, ſold it to Biſhop Fox, the founder of Corpus Chriſti College in Oxford, by whom it was given to that Society.

The knights templars had the advowſon of the church, and an eſtate ſtill called Knights Templars, where is the ſite of a moated manſion. Sir Edward Montague, Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench, had an eſtate in Pertenhall, parcel of the manor of Hoo, and held under that of Kimbolton [t]. The manors of Pertenhall-How, and Bell's *alias* Conington's-fee, were ſold by Simon Taylor eſq. in 1790, to the Rev. Mr. Pagett, and are now the property of William Pagett eſq. John Siſmey eſq. has another manor in Pertenhall, which he inherited from the family of Deane.

In the pariſh church is the monument of a cruſader, with his effigies in ſtone; and in the chancel that of Dr. John King, rector of Chelſea, author of ſeveral tracts and ſermons, who died in 1732. His deſcendant, the Rev. John King, is now patron of the rectory of Pertenhall. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament, paſſed in 1796, when an allotment of land was given to the rector in lieu of tithes.

POTESGRAVE, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Dunſtaple, lies about two miles and a half from Woburn, between the two great roads. The manor belonged to the monaſtery of Woburn; and having been granted by king Edward VI. to Lord Clinton and Say, was ſoon afterwards conveyed to the family of Saunders; and, having ſince paſſed by the ſame title as Battleſden, was, together

[p] Eſch. Hen. III. &c. [q] Eſch. Rich. II. [r] Cart. Hen. III. [s] Cl. 12 Edw. IV.
[t] Cole's Eſcheats in the Britiſh Muſeum.

with the advowſon of the rectory, the property of the late Sir Gregory Page Turner bart. who died ſince the account of that pariſh was printed, and is ſucceeded in title and eſtate by his ſon Gregory Oſborne, a minor. The manor of Lovelſbury in Poteſgrave belonged to the family of Morton in the fourteenth century [u]. It has ſince been united to the manor of Poteſgrave. A third manor, which was in the family of Lucy from the reign of Edward I. to that of Edward IV. [w] and afterwards in the family of Fitzjeffrey, is ſuppoſed alſo to have been united to Poteſgrave. In the church are ſome tombs of the Saunders family.

POTTON, in the hundred of Biggleſwade and deanery of Shefford, is a conſiderable market-town on the borders of Cambridgeſhire, forty-eight miles from London. The market, which, though not ſo great as formerly, is ſtill well ſupplied with all ſorts of grain, particularly wheat and barley, is held on Saturday. The date of the charter has not been found on record. A fair on the feſtival of St. James was granted, in 1227, to Henry de Braybroke, one of the Juſtices of the King's Bench [x], who is ſuppoſed to have been then poſſeſſed of the manor. There are now four fairs, Feb. 2, Old Lady-day, Old Midſummer-day, and Oct. 26. A great fire happened at Potton in the year 1783, when more than fifty dwelling-houſes were deſtroyed, beſides out-houſes, &c. The damage was computed at upwards of 25,000l. Above 6000l. were collected for the pooreſt of the ſufferers. Since this accident the market is ſaid to have declined. The number of houſes, according to the returns made to Parliament in 1801, purſuant to the Population Act, was 239; that of inhabitants 1103.

The manor of Potton was in the Nevills from the reign of Edward II. to the year 1431 [y], and afterwards, for many generations, in the Burgoynes of Sutton. It has ſince been in the Torrington family, and is now the property of Samuel Whitbread eſq. M. P. whoſe father purchaſed it in 1795. The De la Poles had a manor in Potton in the fourteenth century [z], which, in the reign of Henry VIII. was in the family of Tanfield [a], being then called the manor of Potton-Mynchmaured. It has long been united to the other manor [b].

The great tithes of Potton were appropriated to the priory of the Minories in London, in the year 1394. They now belong to the pariſh of Thackſted in Eſſex, having been purchaſed, under a decree in Chancery, with a ſum of money bequeathed to that pariſh by William Lord Maynard in 1698, for charitable uſes [c]. The vicarage of Potton is in the gift of the crown. When the pariſh was incloſed, under an

[u] Tomb in Woburn church. [w] Eſcheats. [x] Cart. 11 Hen. III. [y] Eſch. [z] Cl. 36 Edw. III. [a] Eſcheats. [b] The act for incloſing the pariſh of Potton, in 1774, ſpeaks alſo of the manors of Potton-Rectoria and Potton-Burdett, as being then the property of Lord Torrington. [c] Morant's Eſſex.

Act

Act of Parliament, which paſſed in 1774, an allotment of land was aſſigned in lieu of the vicarial tithes.

PUDINGTON, or PODINGTON, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clophham, lies on the borders of Northamptonſhire, thirteen miles north-weſt of Bedford, and about five miles from Higham Ferrers. King Henry III. in 1227, granted the manor of Pudington to Iſolda de Dover, till ſuch time as he ſhould think fit to reſtore it to the heirs of Reginald Damartin, Earl of Boloigne, whoſe property it had formerly been; in which caſe he promiſed to grant her an equivalent[d]. The manor was afterwards ſucceſſively in the Greys of Ruthin, and in the Bromfletes[e]. In the reign of Henry VIII. being veſted in the crown, it was annexed to the honor of Ampthill. In 1557 it was granted to George Bredyman[f]. In King James's reign it was in the family of Payne, from whom it paſſed by an heir female to that of Child. Margaret, daughter and heir of Richard Child, who died in 1647, married George Orlebar, anceſtor of Richard Orlebar eſq. the preſent proprietor[g], who has a ſeat in the pariſh, called Hinwick-Houſe, built about the year 1710. The ſite of the ancient manor-houſe, which appears to have been a caſtellated manſion[h], is occupied by a farm.

Hinwick-Hall, a ſhort diſtance from Mr. Orlebar's, anciently the property of the Pabenhams and Tyringhams[i], was the ſeat of General Liveſay, who died in 1717, and lies buried in Pudington church, where there is a monument to his memory. He was a deſcendant of Sir Michael Liveſay, the regicide, of whom there was a few years ago a portrait at Hinwick-Hall. This manſion is now in the occupation of Mr. Wagſtaff, deſcended in the female line from General Liveſay's brother. The eſtate is divided among ſeveral co-heirs, of whom the preſent occupier is one.

In Pudington church are monuments of the families of Payne, Child, and Orlebar. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the prior and convent of Canons-Aſhby in Northamptonſhire, and the advowſon of the vicarage, have of late years paſſed with the manor. In the library at Hinwick-Houſe is a *Cartulary* of the priory of Canons-Aſhby. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1765, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriator and vicar in lieu of tithes.

PULLOXHILL, in the hundred and deanery of Flitt, is ſituated on a hill about ſix miles ſouth-eaſt of Ampthill. It was parcel of the ancient barony of Cainhoe,

[d] Cart. 11 Hen. III. [e] Eſch. Edw. II.—IV. [f] Mr. Orlebar's Papers.
[g] Cooper's account of Pudington, in Bib. Top. Brit. [h] Ibid. [i] See Eſch. Hen. III. &c. where it is called the manor of Hinwick.

under

under which it was for ſome time held by the family of Pyrot[k]. At the time of the diſſolution of monaſteries, the manor belonged to the priory of Dunſtaple. The demeſne lands and the manor-houſe were granted by king Edward VI. in 1548, to Sir Thomas Palmer. The manor is now the property of Lady Lucas, as repreſentative of the Greys, earls of Kent, who poſſeſſed it for ſeveral generations. The abbot of Woburn had a manor in this pariſh, perhaps that of Beeches and Upbury, of which George Fitz eſq. died ſeiſed in 1601, as appears by his epitaph in the pariſh church. The manor of Ragons, with lands in Pulloxhill and Flitton, was, in the year 1521, in the family of Hill[l], who in 1691 ſold it to the Earl of Ayleſbury. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whoſe grandfather purchaſed it of the Ayleſbury family, in 1738. In the church is the monument of Sir William Bryers, who died in 1653. The rectory and advowſon of the vicarage were given by John Pyrot to the priory of Dunſtaple. They are now veſted in Lady Lucas.

Ravensden, in the hundred of Barford and deanery of Eaton, lies four miles north-eaſt of Bedford. The Pigots, Latimers, and Mowbrays, had manors in this pariſh, as parcels of the barony of Bedford. The Goſtwicks purchaſed of the Mowbrays. Their eſtate, which ſeems to have been conſidered as the principal manor, was ſold to the Marlborough family in the early part of the laſt century. In 1774 it was purchaſed by John Duke of Bedford, who, not long afterwards, conveyed it to the father of Miſs Butcher, the preſent proprietor.

Mrs. Sarah Southouſe, widow, gives a deputation to a game-keeper for Ravenſden Grange in this pariſh; and E. W. Scrimſhire Green eſq. for Ravenſden Grange in this pariſh, and Thurleigh. One of theſe, it is probable, belonged to the abbot and convent of Warden, who had a manor in this pariſh[m]. The great tithes of Ravenſden were appropriated to the priory of Newenham: they are now the property of the Duke of Bedford, who is patron of the vicarage.

Renhold (anciently Ronhale), in the hundred of Barford and deanery of Eaton, lies about three miles and a half north-eaſt of Bedford. It was parcel of the eſtate of the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford, from whom it ſeems to have paſſed to the Latimers and Nevills. It was afterwards in the Goſtwicks[n] by purchaſe, and is now the property of John Polhill eſq. The monaſtery of Warden had a manor in Renhold, which became their property in 1324[o]. Probably this was Howberry, the ſeat of the Bechers from the reign of Henry VIII. till about the year 1780, when it

[k] Chron. Dunſt. [l] Duke of Bedford's Records. [m] Augmentation Office. [n] Eſch. Edw. III.—Hen. VIII. [o] Tanner.

was

was purchaſed by the family of Polhill. It is now the property of J. Polhill eſq. who has alſo the manors of Salphobury and Flavills in this pariſh. The great tithes were appropriated to the priory of Newenham. Mrs. Stevens, being the impropriator in 1749, gave them, after the deceaſe of one or two perſons, of whom the late Richard Orlebar eſq. of Hinwick was the laſt ſurvivor, to the vicar and his ſucceſſors for ever. Mr. Polhill is patron of the vicarage.

RIDGMONT, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke and deanery of Flitt, which lies about three miles north-eaſt of Woburn, is called in old records Rugemont, *i. e.* the red hill; a name very appropriate to its ſituation and the colour of the ſoil. The principal manor in this pariſh belonged to the abbot and convent of Woburn, and is now the property of his Grace the Duke of Bedford. Another manor, called the manor of Segenhoe-cum-Ridgmont, was, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, parcel of the barony of Wahul, under which it was a long while held by the Greys, Lords of Ruthin, and Earls of Kent. A branch of this family ſettled at Ridgmont, which from them was called formerly Ridgmont-Grey. Thomas, grandſon of Reginald Lord Grey, was created, in 1450, Lord Grey of Rugemont. He was attainted, at the acceſſion of king Edward IV. for his adherence to the houſe of Lancaſter, and died without iſſue. The manor of Segenhoe-cum-Ridgmont was the property of the late Thomas Potter eſq. one of his Majeſty's Juſtices for Wales, who had a ſeat at Ridgmont, now, together with the manor, belonging to Dr. Macqueen, who married his daughter. Dr. Macqueen has alſo the manor of Bevans in this pariſh, ſo called from an ancient family which were ſettled there as early as the thirteenth century[p]. The laſt of the name, a reſpectable yeoman, has lately quitted Ridgmont, to reſide at Leighton-Buſard. There was anciently a caſtle at Segenhoe, which exiſted as late as the year 1276[q]: it is probable that it was then a ſeat of the barons of Wahull.

The manor of Brogborough in this pariſh was, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, and long afterwards, parcel of the barony of Wahull or Odell. From 1308 till 1573[r], if not later, it was held by the noble family of Grey, under that barony. It afterwards came to the crown, and was granted, in 1628, to Ditchfield and others, conveyed in 1632 to the family of Stone, and by them, in 1702, to the anceſtors of his Grace the Duke of Bedford, who is the preſent proprietor. Brogborough Park, having continued in the crown, was, after the death of king Charles I. ſold to John Okey, one of the regicides. After the Reſtoration it was granted to Mr. John Aſhburnham, and was ſold by his deſcendant, Lord Aſhburnham, about 1725, to the Radcliffes of Hitchin in Hertfordſhire, who for ſome

[p] Chron. Dunſt. [q] Ibid. [r] Eſch. Edw. II.—Eliz.

time reſided at Brogborough Park. The houſe has been long deſerted. The eſtate is now the property of the Right Hon. Lady Frances Radcliffe, relict of the late John Radcliffe eſq.

Bickerings Park in this pariſh, was, it is probable, the ſeat of John Bekeryng, who was knight of the ſhire in the reign of Edward III. It was in the crown, in the 17th century, and after the Reſtoration was granted to John Aſhburnham eſq. In 1725, Lord Aſhburnham ſold it to the Radcliffes; and it is now the property of Mr. Delmé Radcliffe, who has lately aſſumed the name, on his marriage with Miſs Clarke, niece and heir of the late John Radcliffe eſq.

Mr. Cooper, in his Hiſtory of Odell, ſays that there was formerly a church at Segenhoe, which has been demoliſhed. It is certain that Walter de Wahul gave the rectory of this pariſh, by the name of the church of Segenhoe, to the priory of Dunſtaple, about the year 1100[a]. The impropriation is now veſted in the Duke of Bedford, who is patron of the vicarage. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1796, when an allotment of land was given to the impropriator in lieu of tithes.

Riſely, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, about 11 miles north of Bedford, appears to have been anciently parcel of the barony of Traylly, under which it was held by the families of Burnell[b] and Croyſer[c]. It is now the property of the Right Honourable Lord St. John, whoſe anceſtors poſſeſſed it as early as the year 1399[d]. Another manor was, at an early period, in the Dayrells[e], and Perteſhills or Percells[f]; from 1629 to 1674, it was in the family of Elmes, of whom it was purchaſed by Sir Creſwell Levinz, one of the juſtices of the Common Pleas[g]. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whoſe grandfather purchaſed it of the Levinz family, in 1737. The church was given by Alice de Tonbridge to the knights templars[h], and was afterwards granted, with moſt of the property of that order, to the hoſpitallers. The impropriation is now veſted in Lord St. John, who is patron of the vicarage. This pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1793. An allotment of land was aſſigned to the impropriator for the great tithes, and a corn rent to the vicar. The vicarage had been endowed with the tithes of hay.

Roxton, in the hundred of Barford and deanery of Eaton, lies eight miles

[a] Chron. Dunſt. [b] Eſch. Edw. I. [c] Cart. Edw. III. [d] Collins's Peerage. [e] Cl. Hen. VI. [f] Eſch. [g] Duke of Bedford's Records. [h] Dugdale.

north-

north-eaſt of Bedford, on the road to St. Neot's. The manor was, in 1316, the property of Walter de Baa[h], afterwards ſucceſſively in the St. Johns[i] and Mordaunts[k]. It now belongs to a minor of the name of Metcalfe, in whoſe family it has been for a conſiderable time. Sir George Throckmorton, in the year 1541, gave an eſtate in this pariſh to King Henry VIII. who, in 1547, granted it to William Box. This eſtate, then called the manor of Throckmortons, or Boxes, in Roxton, was, in the 17th century, in the family of Delawne[l], who poſſeſſed alſo another eſtate called the manor of Colleſdon, or Fitzjeffreys, being probably the ſame which one of that family died ſeiſed of in 1480, and which had been before for a conſiderable time in the family of Boſom[m]. Theſe eſtates have been for many years annexed to the principal manor. In the pariſh church is an altar-tomb in memory of Roger Hunt, of *Chalveſtone*, a hamlet of this pariſh, who was appointed baron of the Exchequer in 1439. The great tithes of Roxton, formerly appropriated to the priory of Caldwell, are veſted in the maſter and ſcholars of Trinity-College, in Cambridge, who are patrons of the vicarage.

SALFORD, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Flitt, lies on the borders of Buckinghamſhire, about 12 miles ſouth-weſt of Bedford. It was formerly the property of a family who took their name from the place, afterwards of the Drakelows[n], and, at a later period, of the Charnocks, of Hulcot, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Herveys, of Chilton in Buckinghamſhire: it is now the joint property of the four daughters of the late Rev. Edward Hervey. In the pariſh church are ſome ancient monuments of a family who bore, for their arms, a plain chevron. One of them has the effigies of a cruſader, with an angel at his head, and two lions at his feet, under an ogie arch, richly ornamented. The great tithes of Salford, which were appropriated to the priory of Newenham, are now the property of Mrs. Barbara Hervey, ſole patroneſs of the vicarage, which is united to Hulcot.

SANDY, in the hundred of Biggleſwade and deanery of Shefford, ſo called from the nature of its ſoil, lies about nine miles eaſt of Bedford, three from Potton, and about the ſame diſtance from Biggleſwade. The manor in 1346, after the death of Roger de Beauchamp, of Eaton, who appears to have had only a life-intereſt in it, paſſed, in conſequence of ſome family ſettlement, to the Engaynes[o]. Thomas

[h] Nomina Villarum in the Britiſh Muſeum. [i] Collins's Peerage. [k] Mr. Cooper's Papers.
[l] Eſch. Car. I. [m] Nomina Villarum, and Eſch. Hen. VI. [n] Cart. Edw. III. and Cl. Rot. Hen. VI. [o] Eſch. 20 Edw. III.

Lord Engayne, who died ſeiſed of it in 1367, left only female heirs. William Lord Spencer died ſeiſed of this manor in 1636 [p]. Lewis, ſecond ſon of Sir Humphrey Monoux, of Wootton, in this county, who was created a baronet in 1660, was of Sandy, which has ever ſince been in the family, and is now the property and ſeat of Sir Philip Monoux bart.

The Haſells in this pariſh is the ſeat of Francis Pym eſq. whoſe father, William Pym eſq. of Radwell, became poſſeſſed of it, together with the manor of Haleleſs, *alias* Haſells, by a marriage with the heireſs of Heylock Kingſley eſq. who died in 1749. This manor was in the Burgoynes as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and was ſold by John Burgoyne eſq. in 1633, to Ephraim Huit, who the next year ſold it to Robert Brittain, great-grandfather of Baron Brittain, of whom it was purchaſed by Mr. Kingſley, in 1721.

Mr. Pym has alſo the manor of *Girtford* in this pariſh, a conſiderable hamlet on the great north road, with a bridge over the Ivel. This manor belonged to the priory of Caldwell, and was granted in 1540 to the Burgoynes. In 1613 it was ſold by William, Earl of Saliſbury, to Francis Lord Ruſſel. Having paſſed by ſucceſſive alienations to the families of Taylor, Bromhall, Edwards, and Pulleyne, it was purchaſed of the latter by Mr. Kingſley, in 1741.

*Beeſton*, another hamlet in this pariſh, lies on the oppoſite ſide of the river, in the hundred of Wixamtree. The manor belonged formerly to the abbot of Warden, who became poſſeſſed of it about the year 1386, in exchange for two manors in Cambridgeſhire [q]. It is now the property of Godfrey Thornton eſq.

In the pariſh church are monuments of the Kingſleys and Pyms. The burial place of the Monoux family is at Wootton. Sir Philip Monoux is patron of the rectory, to which a manor is annexed.

Certain fields in this pariſh were incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1780, and the remainder by an Act which paſſed in 1798, when an allotment having been made in lieu of tithes, one third was aſſigned to the rector, and the remainder to Sir Philip Monoux, charged with a corn-rent to the rector: an allotment of land was given to the poor for fuel, and a ſmall allotment to the pariſh clerk in addition to his ſalary.

An account of the ancient encampment in this pariſh, and of the antiquities diſcovered in its neighbourhood, will be found in the introduction, under the head of Roman remains, p. 24.

SHARNBROOK, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies about

[p] Eſch. Car. I. [q] See Pat. 10 Ric. II.

nine

nine miles north-weſt of Bedford. The principal manor, which appears to have been, at an earlier period, in the St. Johns [r], was for ſeveral generations in the Botelers, who had for ſome time a ſeat at Sharnbrook. It was purchaſed of Sir Philip Boteler bart. of Teſton, in Kent, by Admiral Samuel Corniſh, who was created a baronet in 1765, being deſcribed of Sharnbrook, in Bedfordſhire, and died in 1770. This manor, with Tofte and Temple-Hills, was given by Sir Samuel to his nephew Samuel Pitchford, who took the name of Corniſh, and is now admiral of the white. The manor of Tofte belonged to the Botelers, by a grant from the crown: the manor of Temple-Hills is ſuppoſed to be the ſame eſtate, which, having belonged to the knights templars, was granted, in 1316, to John Lord Grey, and by him conveyed to truſtees for the ſervice of the Holy Land [s]. Theſe manors were all purchaſed of Sir Philip Boteler, by Sir Samuel Corniſh, in or about the year 1765.

The priory of Newenham had a manor in this pariſh; the family of Cobb, who were ſettled at Sharnbrook for ſeveral generations, had two manors here, called Parentynes and Langtons, one held under the hundred of Willey, the other of the manor of Harold [t]. Theſe, together with the manor of Ouſe, are now the property of John Gibbard eſq. whoſe uncle purchaſed them of the family of Bullock. Mr. Gibbard has alſo a ſmall eſtate called Cobb-Hall, and the impropriate tithes, which formerly belonged to the Cobbs, and afterwards to the Orlebars. Before the Reformation they were appropriated to the abbey of St. Mary at Leiceſter. The vicarage is in the gift of the crown. In the pariſh church, which is a handſome Gothic building, with a ſpire, are memorials of the families of Boteler and Antonie.

Colworth Houſe in this pariſh, the ſeat of William Lee Antonie eſq. M.P. became the property of the Antonie family about the year 1700. It devolved to the preſent poſſeſſor, who was ſon of William Lee eſq. of Totteridge, and grandſon of Sir William Lee, Lord Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench, by the bequeſt of Richard Antonie eſq. The principal part of the houſe was built by John Antonie eſq. chief clerk of the Court of King's Bench; the wings were added by Mr. Lee, during his ſon's minority. It is now one of the moſt elegant manſions in the county.

Shelton, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, lies on the borders of Northamptonſhire, 14 miles from Bedford. The manor was formerly in the St. Johns [u], afterwards in the families of Bendiſh [w] and Dillingham, and now belongs to Mr. Harris, yeoman. Lord St. John has two turns in the patronage of the rec-

[r] Collins's Peerage. [s] Ibid. [t] Eſch. Eliz. [u] Collins's Peerage. [w] Eſch. Car. I.

tory; and Mr. Freeman, of Long-Buckby, in Northamptonſhire, one. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament, paſſed in 1794, when a corn-rent was given to the rector in lieu of tithes.

SHITLINGTON, anciently *Sethlingdone*, in the hundred of Clifton and deanery of Shefford, lies about four miles from that town. The manor was in the Napier family as early as the year 1651 *; and it is not improbable that it had been before in the Rotherams, who preceded the Napiers in the poſſeſſion of the manor of Luton. After the death of Sir John Napier, the laſt baronet of that family, in 1747, the manor of Shitlington was ſold. It is now the property of Joſeph Muſgrave eſq. who purchaſed it, in 1760, of Robert, Earl of Holderneſs.

Shitlington-Bury, which ſeems to have been formerly the manor houſe, was left, in 1764, by John Briſcoe eſq. to Henry, Earl of Suſſex, for life, which has occaſioned Shitlington-bury to be deſcribed, in ſome books and maps, as a ſeat of the earls of Suſſex. After the earl's death, Mr. Briſcoe gave the eſtate in fee to the heirs at law of the two daughters of Grey Longueville eſq. of Shitlington. On the earl's death, in 1800, one moiety deſcended to Grey Arnold, whoſe father, Thomas Arnold, although in the humble ſtation of a toll-gatherer at a turnpike near Dunſtaple, and ſupporting a numerous family with a ſmall pittance, honourably refuſed to deprive his ſon of his patrimony, by ſelling his reverſionary intereſt in this eſtate, though the money ariſing from the ſale would have reſcued himſelf and family from poverty. This Thomas Arnold was grandſon of Margaret, the elder daughter of Grey Longueville eſq. above-mentioned. The other moiety deſcended to the wife of Mr. George Antt, as repreſentative of the younger daughter of Mr. Longueville.

The manor of Aſpley-bury, in this pariſh, was many years in the family of Franklin. It is now the property of Joſeph Muſgrave eſq. whoſe uncle, of the ſame name, inherited it by bequeſt, from his relation, Sir Thomas Franklin bart. who died in 1728. This manor extends into Ion and Gravenhurſt.

The pariſh church is a large and handſome Gothic ſtructure. The tower, which fell down in 1701, was re-built in 1750, through the exertions of Mr. George Story, then curate, by a brief, a ſubſcription, and a pariſh rate. In the church are monuments of the families of Longueville and Briſcoe; and the tomb, with his effigies on a braſs plate, of Mathew de Aſſchton, rector of Shitlington, and canon of Lincoln, who died in 1400. The rectory and rectorial manor, given in ancient

* Court Rolls of the Manor.

times

times to the abbey of Ramſey, by Ætheric biſhop of that ſee, who purchaſed them of ſome Danes, to whom they had been given by King Canute[r], are now veſted in the Maſter and Scholars of Trinity College, Cambridge. The vicarage, which is endowed, is in the gift of that College. The pariſh of Shitlington has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1802, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the impropriator in lieu of tithes.

SOULDROP, ſometimes written SOUTHDROP, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies in the north part of the county, about eleven miles from Bedford. The manor belongs in part to Admiral Corniſh, and in part to the Duke of Bedford. That which belongs to the Admiral was formerly in the Cobbs, and was purchaſed, with Sharnbrook, of Sir Philip Boteler, in or about 1765, by Sir Samuel Corniſh. The other has paſſed with the manor of Knotting. The pariſh church has been lately re-built, excepting the ſpire, which, being ſituated on high ground, is, though not lofty, a conſpicuous object for ſeveral miles round. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the rectory, which is conſolidated with Knotting. The pariſh of Souldrop has been incloſed, under an Act of Parliament which paſſed in 1770. An allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of the tithes of open fields, and a tithe-rent of two ſhillings in the pound for the old incloſures.

SOUTHILL, in the hundred of Wixamtree, lies about two miles north of Shefford, about four miles ſouth-weſt of Biggleſwade, and about nine miles from Bedford. In ancient records it is called South Yevel. The manor belongs to Lord Ongley, by deſcent in the female line from Samuel Ongley eſq. who was ſheriff of the county in 1703, and was afterwards knighted. His Lordſhip has alſo the manor of Stanford or Stamfordbury in this pariſh. The monks of Warden Abbey had a manor in this pariſh in 1369, called Gatelins-Bury.

Sir George Byng, a celebrated naval officer in the reign of Queen Anne and George I. purchaſed an eſtate, and ſettled in this pariſh. In 1721 he was created a peer, by the title of Baron Byng of Southill, and Viſcount Torrington. He died in 1733, and lies buried in the pariſh church. His unfortunate ſon, Admiral John Byng, who ſeems to have fallen a victim to the violence of party, was born and interred at Southill. There is an inſcription to his memory in the family *columbarium*, which may be thought to betray too much reſentment for ſo ſacred a place, though ſome allowance is undoubtedly to be made for the feelings of his family. The preſent Lord Torrington ſold his eſtate at

[r] Hiſt. Ang. Scrip. III. 445.

Southill

Southill to the late Mr. Whitbread in 1795. It is now the property of his ſon, Samuel Whitbread eſq. M. P. whoſe ſeat ranks among the firſt in the county.

Southill-Houſe was built about the year 1795, by Holland. The internal decorations are very elegant. Over the doors of ſome of the principal rooms are animals in baſſo-relievo by Garrard, and paintings of live game by Gilpin. In the billiard-room is a collection of Garrard's models of ſheep and cattle. Over the book-caſes in the library are portraits of the principal clerks in the late Mr. Whitbread's brewery; and over the chimney-piece, that of Mr. Whitbread himſelf, placed there by his ſon, with the following appropriate and modeſt motto, "Nobis hæc otia fecit."

In the pariſh church is a monument for Dilly the bookſeller, who died in 1779, and ſeveral memorials of the family of Nodes. In the *columbarium* belonging to the Byngs are ſeveral inſcriptions in memory of that family; George Viſcount Torrington, 1732-3; Pattee Viſcount Torrington, 1746-7; George Viſcount Torrington, 1750, &c. &c. It is ſhut up from public view. The great tithes of Southill were appropriated to the priory of Newenham. The vicarage, which is now conſolidated with Old Warden, is in the deanery of Shefford. Mr. Whitbread is the patron. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1797, when allotments of land were made to Mr. Whitbread and Mr. Barber, as impropriators of the great tithes, and to the vicar. The number of acres in the pariſh was then computed at 2600.

Stagsden, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, which lies five miles weſt of Bedford, on the road to Newport-Pagnell, belonged to the family of Jemys from the year 1311 to 1428 [z], and paſſed afterwards, by heirs female, to the families of Ravenhall and Finaunce [a]. It is now the property of Lord Viſcount Hampden, by inheritance from his anceſtors, the Trevors. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Newenham, are now veſted in the Maſter and Scholars of Trinity College, Cambridge. Lord Hampden is patron of the vicarage.

Little Staughton, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, about four miles from Kimbolton, was ſo called to diſtinguiſh it from the adjoining pariſh of Great Staughton, in the county of Huntingdon. The manor was formerly in the families of Peyvre [b] and Dayrell [c]. In 1700 it was purchaſed of John Spicer, *alias* Hilder, by Henry Kingſley eſq. whoſe grand-daughter brought it in marriage

[z] Eſch. Edw. II.—Hen. VI. [a] See Eſch. 6 Hen. VI. and 37 Hen. VI. [b] Cart. Hen. III.
[c] Cl. Rot. Hen. VI.

to

to William Pym eſq. of Radwell in Herts, father of the preſent proprietor, Francis Pym eſq. of the Haſells, in the pariſh of Sandy.

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the family of Gery of Buſhmead. The rectory is in the patronage of Chriſt-Church College, in Oxford. It formerly belonged to the Knights Templars. Certain common fields in this pariſh, containing about 1000 acres, have been incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1801, when an allotment was made to the rector in lieu of tithes.

STEPINGLEY, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke and deanery of Flitt, lies about three miles ſouth-weſt of Ampthill. The manor paſſed through the ſame hands as Ampthill, being parcel of that honor, till the exchange between the late Duke of Bedford and the Earl of Oſſory, when the leaſe of this manor was reſerved by the former, and is now veſted in his brother, the preſent Duke, who is patron of the rectory. The family of Abbot of Stepingley Park ſerved the office of ſheriff in 1681 and 1722. The advowſon was, in ancient times, given to the priory of Dunſtaple by Robert de Stepingley [d].

STEVENTON, or STEVINGTON, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clophham, lies about ſix miles from Bedford, to the north of the road to Olney. The manor was the property of Roger de Quincy, Earl of Wincheſter, who died in 1264 [e], and paſſed, by the marriage of a co-heireſs of his brother Robert, to Baldwin Wake [f], who in 1281 had the king's licence to build a caſtle in Steventon Marſh [g]. After the death of Thomas Lord Wake, it came by marriage to the Plantagenets, Earls of Kent and Huntingdon, and Dukes of Exeter. Joan Plantagenet, the fair maid of Kent, whoſe ſecond huſband was Edward the Black Prince, died ſeiſed of it in 1386 [h], when it deſcended to the ſon of her firſt huſband, Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, who became Duke of Exeter. Anne, Ducheſs of Exeter, ſiſter of King Henry IV. died ſeiſed of it in 1476 [i]. It is probable that Steventon Caſtle, of which there are now no remains, was the reſidence of ſome of the above-mentioned noble and illuſtrious perſons. The manor of Steventon has been for a conſiderable time in the Alſton family, and is now the property of Thomas Alſton eſq. The church of Steventon was given, in the reign of King John [k], to the nuns of Harold, to whom the great tithes were appropriated: they are now the property of Earl Spencer. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the vicarage. Upon the incloſure of the pariſh of Pavingham under an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1769, the vicar of Steventon, being entitled to the great and ſmall tithes of copyhold tything in

[d] Chron. Dunſt. [e] Eſch. Hen. III. [f] Dugdale's Baronage. [g] Pat. 9 Edw. I.
[h] Eſch. Rich. II. [i] Eſch. Edw. IV. [k] Cart. 7 John.

that

that pariſh, had an allotment of land aſſigned him in lieu of them. Seven acres of land were given to the church of Steventon, before the Reformation, for a *drinking* or church ale. In the centre of the village is an ancient croſs, conſiſting of a tall ſhaft, with a capital, placed on an aſcent of ſteps.

STONDON, in the hundred of Clifton, lies three miles ſouth-eaſt of Shefford, on the borders of Hertfordſhire. The manor belonged anciently to the Mepperſhalls [l], afterwards to Lord Wenlock and the Rotherams [m], and at a later period to the noble family of Grey. It is now the property of their repreſentative, the Right Hon. Lady Lucas. The preſent incumbent, the Rev. Thomas Leach, is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Shefford. *Lower* or *Nether-Stondon* is a hamlet of this pariſh.

STOTFOLD, in the hundred of Clifton, lies about five miles ſouth-eaſt of Shefford, on the borders of Hertfordſhire, near the road to Baldock. A manor in Stotfold, which was parcel of the barony of Bedford, and deſcended by female heirs to the Mowbrays and Berkeleys, was given by the Marquis of Berkeley to Sir Reginald Bray [n]. This, by the name of Lord Bray's manor, is the property of Iſaac Hindley eſq. who purchaſed it, in 1786, of the Dentons, whoſe anceſtor acquired it in like manner of the Anſells in the year 1617. Another manor in Stotfold was given by one of the Beauchamps, Barons of Bedford, to the priory of Newenham; and, after the Reformation, was granted, in 1546, to Richard Kyrke. After having been for a ſhort time in the families of Butler and Anſell, it paſſed to the Lyttons, of whoſe deſcendants it was purchaſed, in 1795, by the preſent proprietor, Mr. John Williamſon. The Maſter and Scholars of Trinity College are patrons of the vicarage, and impropriators of the great tithes, which, with the rectorial manor now veſted in the College, was given by Simon de Beauchamp to the priory of Chickſand.

STRETLY, in the hundred of Flitt and deanery of Dunſtaple, lies about ſix miles from Luton, a little to the weſt of the road to Ampthill. In the reign of Edward I. the manor was in the Gobions [o], from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the Botelers. In 1637 John Lord Boteler died ſeiſed of the manors of Stretly and Sharpenhoe, leaving an only ſon, William, who had been an ideot from his birth [p]. At his deceaſe the title became extinct. This manor was afterwards in the family of Nodes, from whom it paſſed by inheritance to the Goldſmiths. It was lately the property of Mr. Marſhall, and is at preſent the ſubject of a ſuit in Chancery.

[l] Eſch. Edw. II. & III. [m] Cl. Edw. IV. [n] Rot. Parl. VI. 529. [o] Eſch. [p] Eſch. Car. I.

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The family of Wingate had a ſeat at *Sharpenhoe*, a hamlet of this pariſh, for ſeveral generations [q]; and here it was that Edmund Wingate, the arithmetician, is ſaid to have been born. The manor is now the property of the Rev. John Smyth, in whoſe family it has been for ſeveral years. James de Cauz had a chantry in his chapel at Sharpenhoe in 1235 [r]. At this hamlet is a charity-ſchool for eight children, founded in 1686 by Richard Norton, and endowed with a rent-charge of 10l. *per annum.*

The great tithes of Stretly were appropriated to the priory of the Holy Trinity *de Boſco*, commonly called Markate. They are now the property of J. R. Cuthbert eſq. who is patron of the vicarage.

STUDHAM, in the hundred of Manſhead, lies about ſix miles ſouth of Dunſtaple, on the borders of Hertfordſhire, in which county a conſiderable part of the pariſh is ſituated. The manor is ſuppoſed to have been anciently in the Wahuls, who had a ſeat at Shortgrave in this pariſh. It was afterwards in the De la Poles. John De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Elizabeth his wife, gave it to the church of Windſor [s], under which it is now held on leaſe by George Goodwin eſq. Robert, Earl of Carnarvon, who fell at the battle of Newbury, is ſaid to have died ſeiſed of the manor of Studham in Bedfordſhire [t]. It is probable that this was ſome other eſtate in the pariſh.

The manor of *Humberſhoe*, a hamlet partly in this pariſh and partly in Caddington, formerly written Humbriceſtho or Humbriliſhoe, lies partly in Hertfordſhire. In the 13th century it belonged to the family of Young, who founded a chantry in their chapel there [u]. At a later period it belonged to the families of Ferrers [w] and Coppin. It is now the property of Mr. William Shone by a late purchaſe from Mr. Lambert, who bought it of the Coppins.

*Barworth*, a hamlet of this pariſh, lying wholly in Hertfordſhire, had a chapel of eaſe, long ago dilapidated. William Eldeſdone founded a chantry in this chapel in 1236 [x]. The manor, of which nothing is now known, was given by King Henry II. to the priory of Dunſtaple. Shortgrave in this pariſh, formerly a ſeat of the Wahuls [y], is now the joint property of Joſeph Vandermeulen, Wortham Hitch, and John Hitch, eſqrs.

The pariſh church was dedicated in 1220 [z]. The great tithes and rectorial manor of Studham belonged to the priory of Dunſtaple. They are now the joint property of Edward Nicolls eſq. the Rev. John Wheeldon, and the repreſentatives of the late Thomas Vaux eſq. The vicarage, which is in the deanery of Dunſtaple, is in

[q] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees, in the Britiſh Muſeum. [r] Chron. Dunſt. [s] Hiſt. of Windſor, p. 110. [t] Eſch. Car. I. [u] Chron. Dunſt. [w] Eſch. Car. I. [x] Chron. Dunſt. [y] Ibid. [z] Ibid.

the gift of the crown. Three acres of land were given to the church before the Reformation, for the purpoſe of buying frankincenſe.

SUNDON, anciently SONINGDON, in the hundred of Flitt, lies about five miles north-eaſt of Dunſtaple. It had formerly a weekly market on Fridays, and a fair granted by the crown in 1316[z]. The manor was anciently in the Clares, earls of Glouceſter. Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and king of the Romans, poſſeſſed it 40 years, in right of his wife Iſabel, widow of Gilbert Clare, Earl of Glouceſter. It had ſcarcely reverted to the Clares, when Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, became poſſeſſed of it, in 1272, by marrying the ſiſter of Gilbert, then Earl of Glouceſter, grandſon of his father's wife[a]. The manor paſſed afterwards, by conveyance, to Bartholomew de Baddleſmere and Margaret his wife[b], and by marriage from the Baddleſmeres to the Tiptofts[c]. It was afterwards ſucceſſively in the Scroops of Bolton[d], and the Cheynes; the latter of whom continued to poſſeſs it ſo lately as the beginning of the laſt century[e]: about which time it became the property of William Clayton eſq. who was created an Iriſh peer by the title of Lord Sundon, in 1735. It was lately the property of Sir John Buchanan Riddell bart. by inheritance from his uncle, Mr. Buchanan, who purchaſed it of Lord Sundon's heirs. The preſent proprietor, J. R. Cuthbert eſq. bought it of Sir J. B. Riddell in 1803. In the church are ſome tombs of the Cheynes. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Margate, or Markate, are now the property of Mr. Cuthbert. He is alſo patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Dunſtaple. This pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1768. *Upper Sundon* is a hamlet in this pariſh.

SUTTON, in the hundred of Biggleſwade and deanery of Shefford, lies about three miles north-eaſt of Biggleſwade, and about a mile and a half ſouth of Potton. In the reign of King Henry II. Robert Foliot, a baron, married Margaret, daughter and ſole heir of Richard de Reincourt, lord of Sutton in Bedfordſhire[f]; which paſſed in like manner, by heirs female, to the baronial families of Ledet, Braybroke, and Latimer[g]. There is a current tradition[h], that it belonged afterwards to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaſter, who gave it by a rhyming grant to Roger Burgoyne, anceſtor of the preſent poſſeſſor; and a moated ſite in the park is known by the name of John of Gaunt's Caſtle. The tradition, as far as relates to the grant, appears to be totally deſtitute of foundation; and there is no poſitive evidence that

[z] Cart. Edw. II. [a] Chron. Dunſt. [b] Rot. Parl. II. 430. [c] Dugdale's Baronage, vol. ii.
[d] Dugdale. [e] Magna Britannia. [f] Dugdale. [g] See the Matches in Dugdale.
[h] See Coke's Copyholder.

it

it was ever poſſeſſed by the Duke of Lancaſter. It appears, that he claimed the manor in 1365, as being entitled to it under a deed, by which it was entailed on the heirs of Thomas, Earl of Lancaſter. The manor was then in the poſſeſſion of Elizabeth Latimer, widow[i]; the verdict is not recorded. It is probable, that a compromiſe took place; for the manor of Potton, which was entailed alſo, by the ſame deed, on the heirs of the Earl of Lancaſter, deſcended to the Nevilles, as heirs of the Latimer family: but Sutton appears to have been, in 1433, the property of Sir Thomas Swinford[k], probably a ſon of John of Gaunt's wife, by her firſt huſband. It was afterwards in the families of Enderby and Powley[l]; the Powleys appear to have continued in poſſeſſion as late as the year 1568.

The Burgoynes, who had been ſettled at a more remote period in Cambridgeſhire, firſt appear on record as poſſeſſed of lands in this county about the year 1456; when William Burgoyne died ſeiſed of part of the manor of Wootton[m]. Richard Burgoyne, who died in 1463, had the manor of Boſoms in Wootton, and other lands, but none in Sutton[n]. Thomas Burgoyne, who died in 1516, and was buried at Sutton, is the firſt who appears to have been connected with this pariſh; and the family ſeems not to have been poſſeſſed of the manor till after the year 1568, probably by purchaſe from the Powleys. John Burgoyne eſq. was created a baronet in 1641. His immediate deſcendant, Sir Montague Burgoyne bart., is the preſent proprietor.

In the pariſh church are ſome handſome monuments of the Burgoyne family. The learned Biſhop Stillingfleet was preſented to the rectory of Sutton by Sir Roger Burgoyne, the ſecond baronet. Here he is ſaid to have written his *Origines Sacræ*. He reſigned the living in 1665. The rectory is now, by purchaſe from the Burgoynes, in the patronage of St. John's College, Oxford.. An Act of Parliament paſſed, in 1742, for facilitating the incloſure of this pariſh, and ſecuring an equivalent to the rector in lieu of tithes.

TEMPSFORD, in the hundred of Biggleſwade and deanery of Shefford, is ſituated on the great northern road, between Biggleſwade and Eaton-Socon, near the confluence of the Ouſe and the Ivel. Our ancient hiſtorians ſpeak of this place as a Daniſh town, which was taken by King Edward in 921[o]. In 1010, being then in poſſeſſion of the Engliſh, it was burnt by an army of Danes[p]. The manor was anciently in the families of Brettville[q] and Blundell[r], it was purchaſed of the

[i] Placit. &c. de terris in Turr. Lond. (Co. Bedford, N° 20.) under the name of Harpeden. [k] See Eſch. 12 Hen. VI. [l] Eſch. Hen. VII. and Eliz. [m] Eſch. Hen. VI. [n] Eſch. Edw. IV. [o] Sax. Chron. [p] Ibid. [q] Papers communicated by William Bray eſq. [r] Ibid.

latter by Roger de la Leye, and paſſed, by marriage with his daughter and heir, to Hugh de Bray[s]. This manor was the property and ſeat of the late Sir John Payne bart.; it was purchaſed by his father, Sir Gillias Payne bart. in 1772, of Meſſrs. Berners and Hagar, who married the co-heireſſes of the Bendiſh family.

In the church are memorials of the families of Chetwode and Payne. The rectory is in the gift of the crown; the advowſon belonged formerly to the priory of St. Neot's[t]. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1777, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, and a rent for the tithes of old incloſures.

THURLEY, or THURLEIGH, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Eaton, lies about eight miles north of Bedford. John de Hervey, anceſtor of the Earl of Briſtol, became poſſeſſed of a manor in Thurleigh by marriage with the heireſs of John Harman or Hammon[u]; he made Thurleigh his principal ſeat, and died about the year 1292; his family were ſeveral times knights of the ſhire. Sir George Hervey, who was knighted by King Henry VIII. for his bravery at the ſiege of Tournay, died in 1526, leaving his manor of Thurleigh to Gerard, his illegitimate ſon by Margaret Smart, who was knighted, and took the name of Hervey[w]: his deſcendants continued at Thurleigh till the death of John Hervey eſq. in 1715: but this manor had been alienated at an earlier period, and was, in 1708, the property of Sir John Holt, of whoſe deſcendant, Thomas Holt eſq. it was purchaſed, in 1790, by the late Duke of Bedford. Another manor was in the St. Johns, as early as the year 1391[x], and was purchaſed of the Earl of Bolingbroke by the anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, John Crawley eſq. of Stockwood in Luton.

Blackburn-Hall, *alias* Black-Bull-Hall, now a farm-houſe, in this pariſh, within a moated ſite, had been the property of the Fitz-jefferys, of Creakers, in Barford, for a conſiderable time preceding the year 1651, when it paſſed out of that family by mortgage, and was purchaſed in 1707, of the repreſentatives of the mortgagees, by Sir Nathan Wright bart. In 1733, it was ſold by the Wrights to Robert Bell eſq. maternal grandfather of the late William Gery eſq.; it is now the property of his ſon-in-law the Rev. Hugh Wade Gery.

The Franklyns had a ſeat at Thurleigh for ſeveral generations[y].

Mr. Crawley is leſſee of the impropriate tithes under Trinity-College, Cambridge, and is patron of the vicarage. Near the church-yard is a circular mount, with an

[s] Mr. Bray's Papers. [t] Plac. &c. de terris in com. Bed. in Turr. Lond. [u] Collins's Peerage.
[w] Ibid. [x] Ibid. [y] Bedfordſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum.

entrench-

entrenchment, called Bury Hill, which appears to have been the ſite of an ancient manſion, perhaps that of John de Hervey before-mentioned.

TILBROOK, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, lies on the borders of Huntingdonſhire, about a mile and a half from Kimbolton, on the road from Wellingborough to that town. The manor belonged to the Clares, Earls of Glouceſter, from whom it deſcended to Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who died in 1460 [y]. In 1485 it was confirmed to Catharine, widow of Jaſper, Duke of Bedford [z], and was afterwards the property of Sir James Fitzgarret, who was attainted in 1538 [a]. It is now the property of the Right Honourable Lord St. John, in whoſe family it has been for a conſiderable time. His Lordſhip is alſo patron of the rectory. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament, paſſed in 1800, when a ſmall allotment of land was given to the rector, who was farther compenſated by a corn-rent. The pariſh contains about 1380 acres.

TILSWORTH, in the hundred of Manſhead, lies about four miles north-weſt of Dunſtaple, near the Watling-Street. The manor was anciently in the family of Morteye [b], from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Chamberleynes. In the 16th century it was in the family of Fowler [c]. It is now the property of Charles Cheſter eſq. whoſe father, a younger brother of the late Lord Bagot, took the name of Cheſter on ſucceeding to the eſtates of Sir Charles Bagot Cheſter bart. the laſt heir male of the Cheſters, of Chichley, in Buckinghamſhire and of Tilſworth. Sir Anthony Cheſter, their anceſtor, was created a baronet in 1619. The old manſion, which was a ſeat of the Fowlers, and afterwards of the Cheſters, is in a ſtate of dilapidation.

In the pariſh church are monuments of Sir Henry Cheſter K.B. who died in 1666, and ſome of the Fowler family. There is alſo an altar-tomb with the effigies of an eccleſiaſtic under a Gothic arch, and a ſlab, with an ancient French inſcription, in memory of Adam de Tulleſworth. The great tithes were appropriated to the priory of Beachwood. The manor was incloſed by an Act of Parliament paſſed in 1767, when an allotment of land was given to Mr. Cheſter, in lieu of the great tithes, and the annual ſum of 31l. 10s. was ſettled in lieu of ſmall tithes on the vicar. Mr. Cheſter is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Dunſtaple.

TINGRITH, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Flitt, lies about four miles eaſt of Woburn, about two miles and a half north of Toddington, and about

[y] Eſch. Hen. VI. [z] Rot. Parl. VI. 284. [a] Records in the Augmentation Office.
[b] Nomina Villarum in the Britiſh Muſeum. N° 6281. Harl. MSS. [c] Eſch. Eliz.

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five miles nearly to the ſouth of Ampthill. The manor, which had been the property of Lord Fanhope, was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Grey and Cheyne[d]. Robert Hodgſon, whoſe monument is in the pariſh church, died ſeiſed of it in 1611. After this it was in the family of Charnock, of whom it was purchaſed, about 1710, by the anceſtor of Charles Dymoke Willaume eſq. the preſent proprietor, who is patron of the rectory, and has a ſeat here. Part of Tingrith is within Sir John Everett's manor of Weſtoning.

TODDINGTON, in the hundred of Manſhead, ſeven miles from Ampthill, and five from Dunſtaple, was, till of late years, a conſiderable market town. The market was originally held on Thurſdays, by grant from King Henry III. in 1218[e]. It was changed to Saturday, by a charter of King Edward II. in 1316, which charter was confirmed by King Richard II. in 1385[f]. In 1681, the market at Toddington was ſo conſiderable, that ſixteen butchers rented ſtalls in the market-place[g]. It declined by degrees, and has been of late wholly diſcontinued. The market-houſe was pulled down in 1799, and the materials ſold. It is probable, that it had been before diſcontinued, and afterwards revived, as Leland does not include Toddington in his liſt of the market towns in Bedfordſhire. A fair on the feſtival of St. George, was granted by the charters of 1218 and 1316. The preſent fairs are five in number; April 25th, the firſt Monday in June, September 4th, November 2d, and December 16th. The number of houſes, as returned to Parliament, in 1801, purſuant to the Population Act, was 360; that of inhabitants, 1143.

The manor of Toddington was given by William the Conqueror, to Ernulfus de Heſdin, anceſtor of the Earls of Perch; on the death of Thomas, the laſt earl, in 1216, his heir, the biſhop of Chalons ſold it to William Mareſhall, Earl of Pembroke[h]. Eleanor, widow of William Mareſhall, Earl of Pembroke, (ſiſter of King Henry III.) held it in dower in 1231[i]. Contemporary with this was another ſmaller manor, of which William Longeſpée, Earl of Saliſbury, was ſeiſed, in 1217[k]. It was then valued at 5l. *per annum.*

In the early part of Henry III.'s reign, Paulinus Peyvre had the manor of Toddington, which, at firſt, it is probable, he held under the Mareſhalls, and in 1224, he acquired, of Hugh Wadlowe, all his eſtate in Wadlowe, probably the ſame which is now called the manor of Wadloes, on condition of providing him with clothes and maintenance during his life[l]. This Paulinus Peyvre, ſteward of the houſehold to King Henry III. was a man of mean origin, and when he went to court,

[d] Eſch. Eliz. [e] Cl. Rot. Hen. III. [f] Pat. 9 Ric. II. [g] Papers in the poſſeſſion of the rector. [h] See the Account of Newbury, in Berkſhire. [i] Chron. Dunſt. [k] Cl. 1 Hen. III. [l] Chron. Dunſt.

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was not poſſeſſed of two carucates of land; but by means, lawful and unlawful, as Matthew Paris obſerves, acquired ſuch wealth, that he ſoon became poſſeſſed of more than 500 carucates: a moſt inſatiable purchaſer of lands, ſays the hiſtorian, and a moſt incomparable builder. Not to ſpeak of thoſe in other places, his houſe at Toddington was like a palace, with a chapel, chambers, and other buildings, covered with lead, which raiſed the admiration of the beholders. His workmen are ſaid to have received 100s. and more than 10 marks a week for their wages. The ſite of this noble manſion is not known. The Chronicle of Dunſtaple mentions, that Paulinus Peyvre built the chamber over his gate at Wadlowe, in 1244. It is not improbable, that he might have had a houſe at Toddington, and another at Wadlowe, then a conſiderable hamlet, about a mile diſtant from Toddington, of which not a ſingle houſe remains, but there are conſiderable traces of buildings in a field which goes by the ſame name. Near the church at Toddington, is a mount called Conger-Hill, which ſeems to have been the keep of a caſtellated manſion, and there are conſiderable earth-works near it. This might have been the ſite of Sir Paulinus Peyvre's manſion. This favourite of fortune died in 1251. John Lord Grey married his widow, and having purchaſed of the King the marriage of his ſon, then a minor, married him to his own daughter, at his manor of Water-Eaton, in Buckinghamſhire. Queen Eleanor, the conſort of King Edward I., had the cuſtody of this manor during John Peyvre's minority [m].

Mary, daughter and heir of Thomas Peyvre, the ſixth in deſcent from Sir Paulinus, married Sir John Broughton, whoſe daughter and co-heir, Anne, brought this manor in marriage to Sir Thomas Cheney K. G. Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. His ſon Henry was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, in 1563, ſhe being then on a viſit to him at Toddington. In 1572, he was created Lord Cheney, of Toddington. Dying in 1587, without iſſue, his eſtates devolved to his wife, who was daughter of Thomas Lord Wentworth, of Nettleſted, and were inherited by her relations. In the month of July, 1608, Toddington was honoured with a viſit by King James I. [n]

On the death of Thomas, Earl of Cleveland, in 1667, the barony of Wentworth, and this eſtate, paſſed to his grand-daughter and ſole heir, Henrietta, who became Baroneſs Wentworth in her own right, and reſided at Toddington, with an illuſtrious inmate, the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth. In an ancient plan of the manor-houſe, two adjoining rooms are called the Duke of Monmouth's parlour, and my Lady's parlour. The Duke's attachment to Lady Wentworth continued to his death. On the ſcaffold, he ſpoke in vindication of her honour, although it was ſufficiently notorious, nor did he deny it to the divines who attended him,

[m] Chron. Dunſt. [n] Mr. Archer's notes in the Regiſter of Houghton-Conqueſt.

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that they lived together as man and wife, after he had forſaken the Ducheſs [o]. Lady Wentworth is ſaid to have died broken-hearted, in conſequence of his untimely end. It is certain that ſhe ſurvived his execution but a few months. Upon her death the barony of Wentworth, and this eſtate, paſſed to Lady Anne, wife of John Lord Lovelace, and were inherited by their daughter Martha, who attended at the coronation of Queen Anne, as Baroneſs Wentworth. She married Sir Henry Johnſon, a rich ſhip-builder at Poplar, who reſided at Toddington with his lady, and was buried there in 1719. His only daughter, by a former wife, married Thomas, Earl of Strafford, who became poſſeſſed of this eſtate, which is now veſted in the truſtees of the late Right Honourable Thomas Conolly, who was ſon of his daughter, Lady Anne. The manor of Youngs, in this pariſh, ſeems to have paſſed by the ſame title, and is now veſted in Mr. Conolly's truſtees.

Lord Cheney built a noble manſion at Toddington, about half a mile from the church, of which nothing now remains but the kitchen, which is remarkably ſpacious, having two fire-places, each 12 feet in width, and a few rooms fitted up as a farm-houſe. The greater part of the building was pulled down by the Earl of Strafford, about the year 1745. It appears by an ancient plan of the houſe [p], that it occupied four ſides of a quadrangle, at each corner of which was a turret: the north and ſouth fronts were 210 feet in length; the chapel was 30 feet by 24; the tenniscourt 65 feet in length, and a marble gallery, 58.

The manor of Wadloes before-mentioned, did not paſs to the Wentworths. Early in the 17th century it was in the family of Aſtrey [q], of whom it was inherited by the preſent proprietor, Francis Penyſton eſq. who, reſerving the manor, has ſold the farm to John Wingate Jennings eſq. of Harlington. The manor of *Charlton*, a hamlet in this pariſh, now belongs to Mr. Cox, who purchaſed it of the preſent Viſcount Howe. It has of late years paſſed through ſeveral hands.

The pariſh church is a handſome Gothic ſtructure; the frieze, on the outſide, is decorated with various groteſque figures of animals. The north and ſouth tranſepts, belonging to the lord of the manor, are in a moſt ſhameful ſtate of dilapidation. In the ſouth tranſept are ſome ancient monuments of the Peyvres; as appears by the arms: one of them was a cruſader. In the ſame tranſept are monuments of Anne, wife of Sir Thomas Cheney, K.G. 1561, Henry Lord Cheney, 1587, and his widow, Jane Lady Cheney, 1614. On each of theſe were the effigies of the deceaſed, now much mutilated, and lying on the ground, mingled with the broken ornaments of the tombs, and the dung of birds and bats. The

[o] Granger's Biographical Hiſtory.
[p] It was, in 1802, on a fire-ſcreen at the Farm.
[q] Eſch. Car. I.

north

north tranſept, which was the burial place of the Wentworths, is not in a much better condition. The coſtly monument of Henrietta, Lady Wentworth, the Duke of Monmouth's miſtreſs, who died in 1686, on which her mother, who ſurvived her ten years, directed the large ſum of 2000l. to be expended, and another monument, which appears to have been no leſs coſtly, in memory of Lady Maria Wentworth, who died at the premature age of 18, in 1632, are in a ſtate little better than thoſe of the Cheneys. The windows of the aiſle being without glaſs, and the roof much decayed, they are daily receiving freſh injury, by being expoſed to the ravages of the weather, and the depredations of children. In the epitaph on Lady Maria Wentworth, the following paſſage, alluding to her early death, affords a curious ſpecimen of the extravagant mode of expreſſion in that age. The writer tells us that

——"Her ſoul grew ſo faſt within,
"It broke the outward ſhell of Sin,
"And ſo was hatch'd a cherubim."

In a more ſober ſtrain, he deſcribes her character as very amiable, by ſaying that ſhe was

"Good to the poor, to kindred dear,
"To ſervants kind, to friendſhip clear,
"To nothing but herſelf ſevere."

In the chancel is a monument in memory of Giles Bruce, eldeſt ſon of Sir John Bruce, of Winham, in Suffolk, who died at Toddington, in 1595, being on a viſit to his ſiſter Alice, then *attending on* the Lady Cheney. Mr. Conolly is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Dunſtaple. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament, paſſed in 1797, when an allotment of land was made to Mr. Conolly, as entitled to a moiety of the great tithes; and an allotment not to exceed 150 acres was made to the rector, who was alſo to have a corn-rent, equivalent to his farther intereſt in the other moiety. The number of acres in the pariſh, was then computed at 2800.

Abraham Hartwell, a learned writer of the 17th century, was rector of Toddington, where he founded a library for the uſe of his ſucceſſors [r].

John Reinolds, the epigrammatiſt, is ſaid, by Anthony Wood, to have been a native of this place.

In the year 1443, a hoſpital was founded at Toddington, in honour of St. John the Baptiſt, by Sir John Broughton, for three poor men, and a maſter, or chaplain,

[r] Harwood's Alumni Etonenſes, p. 173.

who were to pray for the ſouls of Thomas Peyvre, and Margaret his wife, and their anceſtors. Sir John Milner was the laſt maſter of this hoſpital, which was diſſolved by the lord warden Cheney, without the king's licence. It was ſeized, in conſequence, by the crown, but afterwards granted to the Cheney family [t]. There are, now, no traces of the hoſpital; the ſtones were uſed in building the market-houſe which has been lately pulled down. Its ſite was near the ſpot which is called Conger-Hill.

Toternhoe, in the hundred of Manſhead, lies about two miles to the weſt of Dunſtaple. It belonged formerly to the families of Cantilupe and Zouche [u]. Sir Reginald Bray became poſſeſſed of it by a grant from the crown, in 1513. It has ſince paſſed with Eaton-Bray, and is now the property of William Beckford eſq. The church was given by Walter de Wahul, of Shortgrave, to the priory and convent of Dunſtaple, who endowed the vicarage in 1220 [w]. The late Alderman Wilkes was poſſeſſed of the rectory and advowſon, in right of his wife, who was a deſcendant of the celebrated phyſician, Dr. Mead. Since the death of Miſs Wilkes, they are become the property of his nephew. Toternhoe is in the deanery of Dunſtaple.

Turvey, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies on the borders of Buckinghamſhire, eight miles from Bedford, in the road to Olney. Euſtace le Mordaunt, grandſon of Sir Oſbert le Mordaunt, who lived in the reign of William the Conqueror, became poſſeſſed of the manor of Turvey, by marriage with the heireſs of Sir William de Alneto, or Dawney [v]. William Mordaunt, in 1297, had the king's licence to incloſe a park at Turvey [x], which became the chief ſeat of that ancient family. Sir John Mordaunt was created Baron Mordaunt of Turvey, in 1532. His deſcendant, John, Lord Mordaunt, was created Earl of Peterborough, in 1628. Turvey-Hall, having been long deſerted by its noble owners, and occupied as a farm, was ſold by the preſent Earl of Peterborough, to the late William Fuller eſq. a banker in London, and is now the property of his daughters. The manor was ſold to Charles Higgins eſq. whoſe nephew, John Higgins, jun. is the preſent proprietor. Mr. Higgins's ſeat is called (for what reaſon does not appear) Turvey-Abbey. There is no record or trace of a religious houſe here, nor does any part of the pariſh appear to have been monaſtic property, excepting a ſmall manor which belonged to the *Priory* of St. Neot's. It is probable that Mr. Higgins's houſe might have been the ſite of that manor.

[t] Papers in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Dixon, the rector. [u] Eſch. Rich. II—Edw. IV.
[w] Chron. Dunſt. [v] Hiſtory of the Houſe of Mordaunt. [x] Collins's Peerage.

Edward

Edward Dudley eſq. who died in 1641, was ſeiſed of an eſtate in this pariſh, called the manor of *Turveys*, held under the Earl of Peterborough's manor of Turvey. He left three daughters, co-heireſſes[y]. This eſtate came afterwards to the Mordaunts, who poſſeſſed the whole landed property of the pariſh. Its name has been long forgotten.

In the pariſh church are monuments of Sir John Mordaunt, and the three firſt barons. Sir John was chancellor of the duchy of Lancaſter, and father of the firſt Lord Mordaunt. He died in 1504, having, by his will, founded a chantry in the pariſh church of Turvey, and endowed it with lands for the ſupport of two chaplains, to pray for the ſouls of himſelf, his kindred, and his anceſtors. His effigies is repreſented in armour, over which is a robe with a collar of S. S. His lady is in a robe, with a rich coif. The monument of John, the firſt Lord Mordaunt, who died in 1562, has the effigies of himſelf and his lady. He is repreſented in armour with a robe. She is in a robe with puckered ſleeves, and has the angular head dreſs, which was worn in the reign of Henry VIII. The monument of Henry, the ſecond Lord Mordaunt, is in the north chancel, and has his effigies, in armour, between thoſe of his two wives, under an open canopy ſupported by columns of the Doric order. In the ſame chancel is a plain altar-tomb to the memory of Lewis, the third Lord Mordaunt. Charles, earl of Peterborough, who diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the reign of George II. both as a ſoldier and ſtateſman, was buried in the vault under this chancel, without any memorial. The monuments above-mentioned, have been all engraved for the hiſtory of the houſe of Mordaunt, a very rare work, one of the few copies of which is in the college of arms. Over the altar at Turvey is a picture of our Saviour and his diſciples on the road to Emmaus, given to the pariſh by the preſent rector. Upon the ſale of Lord Peterborough's eſtates, the late Mr. Fuller purchaſed a moiety of the great tithes, which had been appropriated to the foreign priory of St. Neot's[z], and afterwards to that of Newenham. It is now the property of his daughters, who are patroneſſes of the rectory. The other moiety belongs to the rector. The pariſh has been incloſed by an Act of Parliament, paſſed in 1783: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

WARDEN, in the hundred of Wixamtree and deanery of Shefford, lies about three miles weſt of Biggleſwade, and about nine from Bedford. It had, formerly, a market on Tueſdays, granted in 1218, to Henry de Braybroke, one of the king's juſtices itinerant, together with a fair at the feſtival of St. Peter and St. Paul[a]. The

[y] Eſch. Car. I. [z] Placit. &c. de Terris in Com. Bed. in Turr. Lond. [a] Fin. Rot. 2 Hen. III.

market was confirmed in 1307, to John de Bocles, together with a fair on the feſtival of St. Leonard [b].

At this place was a monaſtery, called the Abbey of Warden, or *De Sartis*, founded in 1135 by Walter D'Eſpec, for Ciſtercian monks from Rievaux, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary [c]. In the year 1217 Fulk de Brent, a powerful baron, whoſe enormous outrages ſeem to have rendered him the terror of the country, treated the monks of this convent with much cruelty, on account of a diſpute about a wood, and carried thirty of them priſoners to Bedford Caſtle. Yet ſuch was the aſcendancy of the church at that period, that he who ſet the civil power at defiance, was glad to make his peace by ſubmitting to receive manual diſcipline from the monks in the chapter-houſe at Warden, at the ſame time confirming to them the wood about which the diſpute had ariſen, and promiſing them his protection ever after [d]. The revenues of Warden Abbey, at the time of its ſuppreſſion, were eſtimated at 389l. 16s. 6¼d. clear yearly value [e]. The ſmall remains which are to be ſeen of the conventual buildings are of brick, of no great antiquity. A conſiderable part of what is repreſented in Buck's View, was pulled down about the year 1790. The ſite of Warden Abbey, now the property of Mr. Whitbread, is nearly two miles from the pariſh church. In 1669, it was a ſeat of Sir Ralph Bovey [f].

The manor of Warden belonged, in 1250, to Adeliza Wake [g], afterwards to the St. Amands, who, in 1343, gave a moiety of it to the abbot and convent, in exchange for lands in Milbrook [h]. The manor, which was of late years in the Palmers of Warwickſhire, is now the property of Samuel Whitbread eſq. M.P. whoſe father purchaſed it of Mr. Charles Palmer, in 1773. The eſtate is tithe-free.

Lord Ongley has a ſeat in this pariſh. His father was created an Iriſh peer in 1776, by the title of Lord Ongley, of Old Warden. The late Lord Ongley's name was Henley. He took the name of Ongley as heir of Samuel Ongley, of Warden, the firſt of the family who ſettled at this place, about the year 1690. He was a merchant in London, one of the directors of the Eaſt-India Company, and the firſt deputy-governor of the South-Sea Company. He ſerved the office of ſheriff for the county in 1703, and was afterwards knighted.

In the window of the pariſh church is the figure of an abbot of Warden. The only monument of any note is that of Sir Samuel Ongley, who died in 1726, with a ſtatue of the deceaſed in a Roman dreſs. In the church-yard is the mauſoleum of the late Lord Ongley, erected by his widow. Mr. Whitbread is patron of the vicarage, which is conſolidated with Southill.

[b] Cart. 1 Edw. II. [c] Tanner. [d] Chron. Dunſt. [e] Tanner. [f] Liſt of Sheriffs. [g] Chron Dunſt. [h] Pat. Edw. III.

WESTON-ING, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Flitt, lies about four miles from Ampthill, on the road to Toddington. It had formerly a market on Monday, granted in 1304, by King Edward I. with an annual fair on the feſtival of the tranſlation of St. Thomas the Martyr [i]. It was anciently, by the name of Weſton-Tregoz, the property of the Clares, earls of Glouceſter [k]. Early in the fourteenth century, it was purchaſed of Juliana de Sandwich, daughter and heir of Matilda de Averenches (who married Hamon Crevequer, a Kentiſh baron,) by William Inge [l], the ſame, it is ſuppoſed, who was appointed Chief Juſtice of the King's-Bench in 1317. From him this place acquired the name of Weſton-Inge, which it ſtill retains. After the death of William Inge, ſon, it is probable, of the Chief Juſtice, in 1370, this manor devolved on William Lord Zouche, who had married his grand-daughter [m]. In 1542, George Zouche ſurrendered the manor to the crown [n]. Queen Mary gave it to her god-daughter, Mary Curzon, who was one of her maids of honour. She married Sir George Fermor, anceſtor of the Earl of Pomfret [o]. It is now the property of Sir John Everitt, whoſe father purchaſed it of the Pomfret family in 1767. Worth-End and part of Tingrith belong to this manor. The church was given by Gilbert Clare, earl of Glouceſter, to the knights-templars [p], and afterwards belonged to the abbeſs and convent of Elſtow, to whom the great tithes were appropriated. They are now veſted in Francis Penyſton eſq. by inheritance from the Aſtreys. Sir John Everitt is patron of the vicarage

WHIPSNADE, in the hundred of Manſhead, lies about four miles nearly ſouth of Dunſtaple, on the borders of Hertfordſhire. The principal manor, now the property of William Beckford eſq. appears to have paſſed with Eaton-Bray. Another manor is claimed by the repreſentatives of the late Thomas Vaux eſq. The rectory, which is in the deanery of Dunſtaple, is in the gift of the crown. Shortgrave is partly in this pariſh, and partly in Studham. In 1798, Mr. Beckford procured an Act of Parliament for incloſing certain woods and grounds, containing 232 acres, when a rent-charge of 30l. per annum was ſecured to be paid to the pariſh in aid of the poor rate.

WILDEN, in the hundred of Barford and deanery of Eaton, lies about five miles north-eaſt of Bedford. The manor was anciently in the Pabenhams, who continued to poſſeſs it for a conſiderable time [r]. The Ducheſs of Bedford died ſeiſed of it in 1473 [s]. It was afterwards for many years in the Goſtwicks, of whom it was

[i] Cart. 32 Edw. I. [k] Dugdale's Baronage. [l] Harl. MSS. Brit. Muſ. 6073. [m] Dugdale.
[n] Records in the Augmentation Office. [o] Collins's Peerage. [p] Dugdale's Baronage.
[r] Eſch. Hen. III.—Ed. III. [s] Eſch. Ed. IV.

purchaſed

purchaſed by Sarah, Ducheſs of Marlborough. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whoſe grandfather purchaſed it of the Marlborough family. Mr. Wagſtaffe has a ſmall manor in this pariſh, called Sextons, which has been for a conſiderable time in his family. The Duke of Bedford is patron of the rectory. Francis Dillingham, one of the tranſlators of the Bible, was rector of this pariſh.

WILHAMSTED, in the hundred of Bedbornſtoke, lies about four miles ſouth of Bedford. The manor was granted to John de Grey in 1483. John Warner, M. D. died ſeiſed of it in 1565[s], when it was inherited by his nephew, Thomas Norwood. It is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Carteret. A manor in this pariſh was given to Elſtow abbey, in 1078[t]. This is ſuppoſed to be the manor of Maid-Berry, in Wilhamſted and Elſtow, of which Richard Fitzhugh died ſeiſed in 1557[u].

The great tithes were appropriated to Elſtow abbey: the vicar has now one-third, and the remainder is divided between two lay impropriators. Lord Carteret is patron of the vicarage, in conſequence of an exchange with Sidney-Suſſex College, Cambridge. Wilhamſted is in the deanery of Bedford.

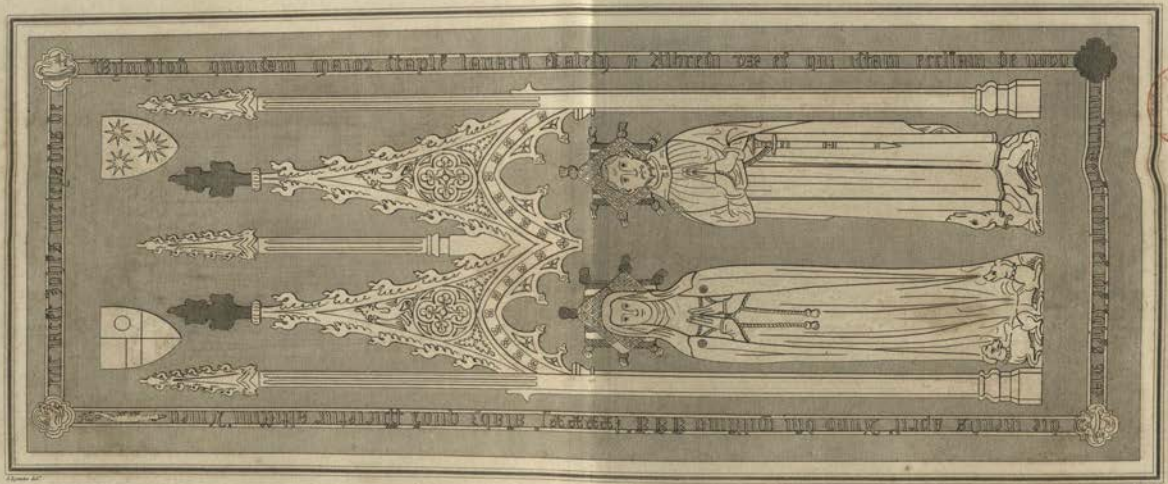
WILLINGTON, in the hundred of Wixamtree, lies nearly five miles eaſt of Bedford, near the road to St. Neot's. It was parcel of the barony of Bedford, and deſcended by a co-heireſs of the Beauchamps, to the Mowbrays, earls and dukes of Norfolk, who, as Leland informs us, had an old manor-place there, where they ſometimes "lay for a ſtarte[w]". From the Mowbrays it paſſed by inheritance, to John Howard, duke of Norfolk, who fell at Boſworth-field. On his attainder, it was granted, in 1485, to John, Earl of Oxford: but it is probable, that it was ſoon after reſtored to the Howards; for Leland, who viſited this county not long afterwards, ſays, "Mr. Goſtewik beyng borne in Willingtoun, boute this lordſhip of the Duke of Northfolk, now lyving, and hath made a ſumptuus new building of brike and tymbre *a fundamentis*, in it, with a conduct of water derivid in leade pipes."

An Act of Parliament paſſed in 1541, to ſecure the manor of Willington to Mr. Goſtwick, who was ſon of Sir John Goſtwick, Maſter of the Horſe to King Henry VIII. William Goſtwick, of Willington, was created a baronet in 1612; his deſcendant Sir William Goſtwick, repreſented the county of Bedford in Parliament, during a great part of the reigns of King William and Queen Anne. Having impoveriſhed his eſtate by frequent election-conteſts, this manor, among others, was ſold in 1731,

[s] Eſch. Eliz. [t] Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 62. [u] Eſch. Ph. and Mar.
[w] Itin. vol. i.

to

SOUTH-EAST VIEW OF WIMINGTON CHURCH, BEDFORDSHIRE.



TOMB OF JOHN CURTEYS AND ALBREDA HIS WIFE IN WIMINGTON CHURCH.

to Sarah, Ducheſs of Marlborough. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whoſe grandfather purchaſed it of the Marlborough family, in 1774.

In the pariſh church, which is a handſome Gothic ſtructure, are ſeveral monuments of the family of Goſtwick: the earlieſt is a braſs plate, in memory of Robert Goſtwick eſq. who died in 1315[x]. The monument of Sir John Goſtwick, Maſter of the Horſe to King Henry VIII. was put up in 1541, by his ſon, ſoon after his purchaſe of the manor. The arms on Sir John's monument differ from others of the Goſtwick family; having, on the chief, three horſes' heads couped, in alluſion to his office, inſtead of three mullets. The monument of Sir William Goſtwick, the firſt baronet, who died in the year 1615, has his effigies in alabaſter, in armour. That of Sir Edward Goſtwick, who died in 1632, is a mural monument, with the effigies of himſelf and his lady, in kneeling attitudes. The title is extinct. The great tithes of Willington, which is in the deanery of Bedford, were appropriated to the priory of Newenham. They are now the property of the Duke of Bedford, who is patron of the vicarage.

WIMINGTON, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham, lies on the borders of Northamptonſhire, about three miles from Higham-Ferrers. The manor continued, for ſome time, in the deſcendants of Alured de Lincoln, who held it when the ſurvey of doomſday was taken[y]. In 1222 it belonged to Peter de Suevia. Soon afterwards it reverted to the Crown, and was granted to Robert de la Bruere. About the year 1260, it paſſed from the family of Welton to that of Nowers, by marriage. Hugh Curteys purchaſed it about the year 1351. About 1397 it ſeems to have been conveyed by his repreſentatives to the baronial family of Bromflete. In 1555 it was the property of Henry, Earl of Derby, whoſe wife, Lady Margaret Clifford, was a lineal deſcendant of one of the co-heireſſes of Henry Lord Bromflete. In 1621 this manor was in the family of Bletſoe, from whoſe repreſentatives it paſſed in 1708, to John Sawyer. In 1713 it became the property of Major General Liveſey, and is now, in ſeveralties, amongſt his repreſentatives.

The pariſh church, a very elegant Gothic ſtructure, was built by John Curteys, lord of the manor, and mayor of the Staple at Calais, who died in 1391, as appears by the inſcription on his tomb. The braſſes of himſelf and his wife Albreda, are remarkably well preſerved. They are on a ſlab of black marble, under Gothic canopies. In the chancel are braſſes, of Sir Thomas Bromfleté, cupbearer to King Henry V. who died in 1430, and his wife Margaret, daughter of

[x] The family of Goſtwick was ſettled at Willington as early as the year 1209, as appears by ſome Bedfordſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum. [y] Cooper's Hiſtory of Wimington, in the Bibl. Top. Brit. from whence the ſubſequent dates are taken.

Sir

Sir Edward St. John, and heireſs of the Lord de Veſci, who died in 1407. The Rev. Wm. Bromwich was, in Feb. 1803, patron of the rectory; the advowſon was then on ſale.

Woburn, in the hundred of Manſhead and deanery of Flitt, is a market town ſituated on the great road to Mancheſter and Leeds, 42 miles from London. The market, which is held on Fridays, was granted, in 1242, to the abbot of Woburn [a]. There are four annual fairs; January 1, March 23, July 13, and September 25. The town of Woburn ſuffered ſeverely by fire in the year 1595 [a], and in 1724 [b]; the laſt time about 50 houſes were conſumed. The number of houſes in Woburn pariſh, according to the return made to Parliament in 1801, purſuant to the Population Act, was 277; the number of inhabitants 1563. Queen Elizabeth viſited Woburn in 1572 [c]. King Charles I. halted at this town the 26th of Auguſt 1645, on his route from Wales to Oxford, and ſlept at the houſe of the Earl of Bedford [d], who was then in the ſervice of the Parliament.

Hugh de Bolebec, in 1145, founded an abbey of Ciſtercian monks at Woburn [e]. In 1234, this monaſtery was ſo poor that the eſtabliſhment was for a time broken up, and the monks diſperſed into different convents till their debts were diſcharged [f]. By various benefactions their revenues were ſo much improved, that, at the general diſſolution of monaſteries in the reign of Henry VIII. they were eſtimated at 391l. 18s. 2d. clear yearly value [g]. The laſt abbot was hanged at Woburn for denying the king's ſupremacy. The ſite of the abbey was granted, in 1547, to John Lord Ruſſel, afterwards Earl of Bedford, and has been ever ſince the chief ſeat of that noble family. There are no remains of the conventual buildings.

Woburn houſe, a magnificent manſion occupying four ſides of a quadrangle, was almoſt wholly rebuilt by Flitcroft, for John Duke of Bedford, about the middle of the laſt century. The ſtate apartments are fitted up in that ſtyle of coſtly magnificence which then prevailed. The gallery exhibits a large and moſt intereſting collection of portraits, among which are to be ſeen thoſe of many illuſtrious characters of the houſe of Ruſſel, and other families allied to them by marriage. Some curious portraits alſo are diſperſed in other rooms; among the moſt remarkable are thoſe of Philip of Spain and Queen Mary, by Sir Antonio More. A *catalogue raiſonné* of the pictures at Woburn was drawn up by the late Earl of

[a] Cart. 26 Henry III. [a] A pamplet was publiſhed on the ſubject bearing that date.
[b] Hiſtorical Regiſter. [c] Queen Elizabeth's Progreſſes. [d] Symonds's MSS. in the Britiſh Muſeum. [e] Tanner. [f] Chron. Dunſt. [g] Tanner.

Orford,

Orford, at the Duke of Bedford's requeſt, not long before his death. Among the portraits lately added, is a fine picture of Thomas Kellegrew, the celebrated wit in Charles the Second's reign. The collection of pictures by the old maſters is large and valuable. Several of thoſe deſcribed by Pennant have been exchanged for others. Among the more recent additions (by the late Duke) are a choice cabinet collection, in a ſmall room at the end of the library, fitted up in the Etruſcan ſtyle. It conſiſts of ſome very valuable pictures by Cuyp, Teniers, Berghem, and Rubens, and a celebrated cattle piece by Paul Potter. The library (57 feet by 24) was fitted up by the late Duke. Over the book caſes are portraits of artiſts; Titian, Rembrandt, Rubens, Tintoret, Teniers, and Kneller, by themſelves; the others principally by Vandyke. The great ſtables, mentioned by Pennant as part of the cloiſters of the abbey, were pulled down by the late Duke, and their ſite is occupied by a ſuite of rooms. The preſent ſtables form the wings of a very handſome building, the centre of which is occupied by the tennis court and riding houſe. The former is 108 feet in length; the riding-houſe, including a gallery at the end for ſpectators, 130. A colonnade, a quarter of a mile in length, leads from the Duke's private apartments to the ſtables, tennis court, and other buildings.

Large ſums have been expended in altering the level of the ground near the houſe, which ſtands about the centre of an extenſive park. Numerous plantations were made, both in the park, and on the neighbouring hills, by the Duke's grandfather; others have been more recently laid out, to the great improvement of the ſcenery; but its character is more that of grandeur, than of pictureſque beauty.

The late Duke's favourite purſuits are well known to have been experimental agriculture and the breeding of cattle. For this purpoſe he kept ſeveral farms in his own hands. The principal farm-yard is in the park, about half a mile from the houſe. The buildings of every kind, for the uſes of the farm, are upon the moſt extenſive ſcale, and abound with every convenience that could be deviſed; one of the moſt remarkable is the room conſtructed for ſhewing the ſheep at the annual ſhearing, which has been kept for ſeveral years paſt with great hoſpitality. The preſent Duke follows the ſteps of his late brother in patronizing agricultural improvement, and keeps up all the eſtabliſhments which he formed with a view to that purpoſe. On the farm at Woburn is a mill for malting, threſhing, winnowing, &c. and other conveniencies for the abridging and expediting of labour, moſt of which were conſtructed under the direction of Mr. Salmon, the Duke's clerk of the works, the ingenious inventor of ſeveral uſeful improvements in agricultural implements.

The manor of Woburn was given to the abbey by the founder [h], and was granted to the Duke of Bedford's anceſtor, together with the conventual ſite.

The manor of Birchmore, in this pariſh, belonged to Woburn abbey, and, after the reformation, was, for a conſiderable time in the family of Stanton, from whom it paſſed, by a female heir, to the Pickerings. It is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whoſe grandfather purchaſed it of Sir Edward Pickering bart. in 1747.

It appears by the *Liber Regis* that Birchmore had formerly a church, to which the chapel of Woburn, called, in moſt records, Old Woburn, was annexed. In a ſurvey of the pariſh, made by Sir Jonas Moore in 1661, a garden, about 200 yards weſt of Birchmore houſe, is called the church-yard. This ſufficiently denotes the ſite of the old church. Woburn chapel, now the pariſh church, was given to the abbot and convent in 1242. The great tithes, by the name of the rectory of Birchmore, were appropriated to the monaſtery in 1308 [k]. They are now the property of the Duke of Bedford. The benefice is a donative in his Grace's patronage.

In the chancel of the pariſh church is the monument of Sir Francis Stanton, ſheriff of the county, who died in 1635. His ſon Edward was an eminent divine among the Puritans. In the ſouth aiſle is the tomb of John Morton, ſon of John Morton, lord of the manor of Lovels-bury, in Poteſgrave, who died in 1394. The tower ſtands detached from the reſt of the building, at the north-weſt corner. The church was undergoing a thorough repair, which it ſeemed much to need, in the month of Auguſt 1800.

Adjoining the church-yard is a free ſchool, founded by Francis Earl of Bedford, who died in 1582. Francis Lord Ruſſel, in 1622, gave a ſalary of 10l. *per annum* to the maſter, which has been ſince increaſed to 35l. A copy of the ſtatutes is in the Duke of Bedford's muniment room in London.

There is an alms-houſe in this pariſh for 12 poor perſons, founded by the Bedford family. It is endowed with 30l. *per annum*, and the endowment was confirmed by an act of Parliament in 1761.

WOOTTON, in the hundred of Redbornſtoke, is a very pleaſant village, lying about 5 miles ſouth-weſt of Bedford. The manor belonged to the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford, and deſcended by female heirs to the Botetourts, Latimers, and Nevilles [l]. John Neville, Lord Latimer, died ſeiſed of it in 1543 [m]. Early in the 17th cen-

[h] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [i] Duke of Bedford's Records. [k] See Tanner.
[l] See Cardington. [m] Eſch. Henry VIII.

tury,

tury, it became the property of the Monoux family. Humphrey Monoux, of Wootton, was created a baronet in 1660. It is now the property of his deſcendant, Sir Philip Monoux bart. who reſides at Sandy. The manor houſe at Wootton is, or was lately, in the occupation of Col. Lake. The manor of Hoe, in this pariſh, was formerly in the Archer family [n], afterwards in the Botelers, and is now the property of Admiral Corniſh, whoſe uncle, Sir Samuel Corniſh, bought it, about the year 1765, of Sir Philip Boteler bart. The manor of Pillinge, in Wootton, or Wootton Pillinge, was part of Lord Fanhope's property [o], and was afterwards in the family of Long [p]. Sir Francis Clerke, who died ſeiſed of it in 1632, bequeathed it to Sidney Suſſex College, in Cambridge [q]. Richard Burgoyne eſq. who died in 1464, was ſeiſed of a manor called Boſoms, in this pariſh [r].

In the pariſh church are ſeveral tombs of the Monoux family, among which are thoſe of all the baronets, and of Lieut. Monoux, who was ſlain in the action with the Duke of Monmouth's army in 1685; he was buried at Chard in Somerſetſhire, and his body afterwards removed hither. Wootton lies in the deanery of Bedford. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Newenham, are now the property of Sir Philip Monoux, who is patron of the vicarage.

WRESTLINGWORTH, in the hundred of Biggleſwade and deanery of Shefford, lies on the borders of Cambridgeſhire, about three miles from Potton, and about five from Biggleſwade. King Henry III. in 1218, gave the manor to Iſabella de Dover, till ſuch time as he ſhould pleaſe to reſtore it to the heirs of Reginald Damartin, Earl of Boulogne, whoſe property it had been, promiſing in that caſe to give her a penſion in lieu of it [s]. After this it was ſucceſſively in the families of Huntercombe [t] and Raghton; from the latter it paſſed by a female heir to the Aſplions [u]. In 1475, it was granted to Anthony Lord Grey, of Ruthin [x]; in 1485, to Margaret Counteſs of Richmond [y], who ſettled it on Thomas Earl of Derby. Of late years it was in the family of Downing, and is now the property of Jacob Whittington eſq. An eſtate in Wreſtlingworth, which belonged alſo to the Downings, forms part of the endowment of the college, which is to be built in Cambridge, purſuant to the will of Sir Jacob Downing. The rectory of Wreſtlingworth is in the gift of the crown. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of Parliament, paſſed in 1801, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the rector, and to the rector of Cockayne Hatley, Thomas Ryder, eſq. and others who had portions of tithes in Wreſtlingworth; under the ſame act, part of Hartley field was allotted

[n] Eſch. Edw. IV. [o] Eſch. Hen. VI. [p] Eſch. Hen. VIII. and Eliz. [q] See his will.
[r] Eſch. Edw. IV. [s] C. 11 Henry III. [t] Eſch. Edw. III. [u] Eſch. Hen. V. and VI.
[x] Pat. 14 Edw. IV. [y] Rot. Parl. vol. vi.

and added to the parish of Wrestlingworth, which was computed to contain about 1860 acres.

YIELDEN, in the hundred of Stodden and deanery of Eaton, lies on the borders of Northamptonshire, about 14 miles from Bedford. It was anciently called Ivelden, or Givelden, and was the seat and property of the barons Traylly, who possessed this and other manors in the county when the survey of Doomsday was taken. They were not summoned to Parliament after the reign of King John [z], but their descendants in the male line continued in possession of this manor till the year 1360, or later. The castle of Yielden is represented in the inquisition of that date, as having fallen entirely to decay [a]. Its site is called the Castle-field, where the present appearance of the earth-works shews it to have been a place of great strength. What became of the manor of Yielden does not appear on record. It is not improbable that it formed part of the endowment of Northill college, founded by the executors of Sir John Traylly, the last heir male of the family. It is certain that it was, at a subsequent period, for a considerable time, in the family of St. John. It is now the property of John Crawley esq. of Stockwood, near Luton, one of the representatives of Sir Jeremy Vanacker Sambroke, whose family purchased it of the Earl of Bolingbroke in 1706. The advowson of the rectory was given by Geffrey Traylly, in the reign of Henry I. to the monks of Thorney [b]. It was afterwards in the St. John family, and was sold by the Earl of Bolingbroke, in 1706, to the then bishop of Peterborough, of whose son, Robert Clavering esq. it was purchased by the Rev. Edward Bunting, the present patron and incumbent.

John Pocklington, rector of Yielden, was author of a sermon, entitled, "Sunday no Sabbath," preached at the bishop of Lincoln's visitation at Ampthill, in 1635 [c]. It gave such offence to the puritans, that, in the year 1640, an order of Parliament was issued, condemning it to be burnt by the hands of the common hangman in London and in the two Universities.

[z] Dugdale. [a] Esch. 34 Edw. III. [b] Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. [c] Ant. Wood.

# BERKSHIRE.

BERKSHIRE.
Scale of Miles.
OXFORD SHIRE
BUCKINGHAM SHIRE
WILT SHIRE
HAMPSHIRE
SURREY
GLOCESTER SH.
HUNDRED
WANTAGE
MORETON
KENTCOMPTON
LAMBOURN
FARECROSS
CHARLTON
BRAY HUND
OCKHAM
HUNDRED
WANDSPRED
Longitude West from Greenwich.

# BERKSHIRE.

## INTRODUCTION.

### ETYMOLOGY.

ASSER MENEVENSIS, an ancient Engliſh hiſtorian, informs us, that this county derives its name from a wood, called *Barroc;* he adds, that it abounded in box, but it does not appear that this circumſtance had any connection with the name. *Barroc* wood is mentioned among the property of the nuns of Ambreſbury, in a charter of King John[a]; and it is probable, that it was ſomewhere on or near the Downs, between Wantage and Lamborn, as the other eſtates, which are mentioned in the ſame charter, are ſituated in that neighbourhood.

### *Ancient Inhabitants and Government.*

CAMDEN mentions Berkſhire as the ſeat of the Attrebatii or Attrebates. It is univerſally allowed, that the greater part of the county was anciently inhabited by that people, who are ſuppoſed to have been a colony of the Attrebates, in Gaul; but it is the opinion of moſt antiquaries of the preſent day, particularly of the learned Mr. Whitaker[b], that the ſouth-eaſtern part of Berkſhire, where is now the hundred of Bray, was inhabited by a people called the Bibroci, and a ſmall portion of it, bordering on Hampſhire, by the Segontiaci. During the early part of the Roman government, Berkſhire formed a part of *Britannia Superior;* but afterwards, when the kingdom was ſubdivided, it was included in the diſtrict of *Britannia Prima.* During the Saxon Heptarchy, this county belonged to the kingdom of the Weſt Saxons; and after the whole of Britain became united into one monarchy, it was compriſed within the diſtrict, called *Weſt-Saxon-Lœge.*

[a] Dugdale's Monaſticon, I. 192. [b] See his Hiſtory of Mancheſter, I. 92, 93.

*Hiſtorical*

*Hiſtorical Events.*

THE earlieſt mention of any hiſtorical fact connected with this county is in the reign of Offa, king of the Mercians, which commenced in the year 758. The Chronicle of Abingdon[c] informs us, that Offa, having conquered Kinewulf, king of the Weſt Saxons, ſeized on all the country, from the town of Wallingford to Aſhbury, which lay between the Ickeneld Street and the Thames.

In the year 871 the Danes, having made an irruption into Weſſex, were defeated at Englefield in this county, by Earl Athelwolf[d]. After this battle they retreated to Reading, where they entrenched themſelves; and, in a ſally from that place, made a ſucceſsful attack upon the army of King Ethelred: this ſkirmiſh proved fatal to the brave Athelwolf[e]. A few days afterwards was fought the famous battle of Aſhdown, in which Ethelred, aſſiſted by Alfred, his brother and illuſtrious ſucceſſor, defeated the Danes, killed their king Baceſeg, or Baſregh, and drove them back to Reading[f].

Antiquaries have differed much in opinion concerning the ſite of this battle. Biſhop Gibſon, in his edition of the Saxon Chronicle, ſays, that ſome have ſuppoſed the *Æſceſdune* of that Chronicle to have been Aſhenden, in Buckinghamſhire; an opinion which certainly has nothing to ſupport it but ſimilarity of name. The learned prelate himſelf ſuppoſed it to have been at Aſton, a village in Berkſhire, about five miles ſouth-weſt of Wallingford: he reſts his opinion upon another paſſage in the ſame Chronicle, which ſays, that in 1016 the Danes went from Wallingford, by way of *Æſceſdune*, to *Cwicchelmſlawe*, becauſe Aſton lies nearly in a line from Wallingford to Cuckhamſley Hill, called by the common people *Cuchinſlow*, or *Scuchinſlow*, and ſuppoſed to be the ancient *Cwicchelmſlawe*. Mr. Wiſe, ſuppoſing the large entrenchment on the Downs above Uffington, and another at ſome diſtance below, towards the weſt, to be the *editior locus* & *inferior locus* of Aſſer, who has deſcribed this battle more minutely than any other hiſtorian, is of opinion, that the ſite of this action was on the Downs, near Aſhbury, where Lord Craven has a ſeat, now called Aſhdown Park; and that the figure of the White Horſe, near Uffington, was a memorial of the victory. He confeſſes, that the paſſage which induced biſhop Gibſon to ſuppoſe Aſton to be the *Æſceſdune* of the Saxon Chronicle, bears hard upon his hypotheſis; but to get rid of the difficulty, he ſuggeſts, that the paſſage might have been erroneouſly tranſcribed, and that the true reading, perhaps, was, that the Danes went by way of *Cwicchelmſlawe* to *Æſceſdune*.

[c] In the Britiſh Muſeum, Cotton MSS. Claudius B. VI. [d] Saxon Chron. [e] Ibid.
[f] Aſſer's Account of this battle may be ſeen in Gale's Hiſt. Ang. Scrip. III. 163, 164, and that of Simon Dunelmenſis in the Decem Scriptores I. 125, 126.

Moſt

Moſt modern writers have ſubſcribed to the opinion of Mr. Wiſe; but there are ſtrong reaſons for ſuppoſing, that this battle was not fought at either of the places already mentioned. In the ſurvey of Domeſday, Aſton is written *Eſtone*, its etymology being in common with many places of the ſame name, the Eaſt town: Aſhbury is the *Eiſſeberie* of the ſurvey, which lay within the ancient hundred of *Hilleſlau*. The Aſhdown (*Aſſedone*) of the ſurvey was in the hundred of Nachededorne, which correſponds with the modern hundred of Compton. This place ſufficiently agrees, both as to its name[g] and ſituation, with the little that is to be gathered from our hiſtorians, reſpecting the ſite of this action.

The *Aſſedone* of the ſurvey ſeems to have been in or near the pariſh of Aſhampſtead, and to have included the manor of that place, of which no mention is there made. At a later period, the manors of Aſhampſtead and *Aſſedone*, or, as it is called in records of a more modern date, *Aſhdown*, appear to have been uniformly held by the ſame proprietors, and ſeem to be deſcribed as adjoining eſtates. They may be traced down through the families of De la Beche and Langford, as late as the reign of King Henry VIII[h]. Any ſubſequent notice of the manor of Aſhdown (which was held of the honour of Tutbury) has been ſought for in vain: the name ſeems to have been loſt; but it is evident, that its ſite muſt be in the hundred of Compton, and in or adjoining to the pariſh of Aſhampſtead; and here, it is preſumed, that the ſite of the battle of Aſhdown muſt be looked for. The expreſſions of *editior locus* and *inferior locus*, to which Mr. Wiſe attaches ſo much conſequence, ſuppoſing that they referred to the ſtrong poſts in the neighbourhood of the White Horſe, ſeem to import nothing more than the upper and the lower ground, and may apply to any ſpot in a hilly country; nor is there any thing in Aſſer's deſcription of the battle, which intimates that either party occupied any ſtrong poſt.

Suppoſing Cuckhamſley Hill to be the *Cwicchelmſlawe* of the Saxon Chronicle, the route from Wallingford, by way of Aſhampſtead, to that place would, it is true, be ſomewhat circuitous; and that it was circuitous, the expreſſion of going by way of *Æſceſdune* to *Cwicchelmſlawe* ſeems to imply. Aſhdown Park lies in an oppoſite direction. It is not improbable, that *Cwicchelmſlawe* was the large tract of land, given by Cenwallus, in the year 648, to Cuthred, the ſon of Cwicchelm, which land is ſaid, in the Saxon Chronicle, to have been near to Æſceſdune, and might have been called *Cwicchelmſlawe* by Cuthred, in honour of his father.

[g] Bromton's manner of ſpelling the name (Aſſchedon) approaches very near to that of the ſurvey.

[h] Eſch. Edw. III. & Hen. VIII. The manor of Aſhbury (including Aſhdown Park) belonged to the abbot and convent of Glaſtonbury from a very early period till the diſſolution of that monaſtery.

The Chronicle of Melros mentions another battle at Reading, after that at Aſhdown[j]. The Danes ſpent the winter of 872 in that town[k].

Camden, and moſt ſucceeding antiquaries, have ſuppoſed Eddington, near Weſtbury, in Wiltſhire, to have been the Ethandune of the Saxon Chronicle, where Alfred gained a deciſive victory over the Danes in 878. Dr. Beke, the learned Profeſſor of Modern Hiſtory in the Univerſity of Oxford, has favoured us with ſome very ingenious conjectures, which amount almoſt to proofs, that this battle was fought at Eddington, near Hungerford, in Berkſhire. Alfred's intention appears to have been to ſurprize the Danes with a force, ſuddenly and unexpectedly collected. Accordingly, the people of Somerſetſhire, Hampſhire, and Wiltſhire, having reſorted to his ſtandard at *Ecbyrhteſtane*, (afterwards called *Brightricheſtone*, and now Brixton, in Wiltſhire,) he ſet forward the next morning at day-break, it being then the middle of May, and paſſed the following night at Æglea, or Iglea; and, advancing the following day, totally defeated the Danes, and purſued them with his cavalry to their fortified camp. As Eddington, near Weſtbury, is ſcarcely ten miles from Brixton, there ſeems, as Dr. Beke obſerves, an evident abſurdity in ſuppoſing that, if ſo much time had been taken up in moving ſo ſhort a diſtance, any ſurprize could have been intended, or could have been ſucceſsful, if attempted in ſo dilatory a manner. He ſuppoſes, therefore, that the day before the action, Alfred made a long and forced march of about thirty-five miles over the Downs, with his cavalry, and reached *Æglea*, or *Iglea*, which place he, with great probability, conjectures to have given name to the hundred of *Eglei*[l], in Berkſhire, which lies to the north of Eddington, and that the next morning he attacked the Daniſh army by the road from Shefford.

The learned profeſſor reſts his opinion chiefly on theſe circumſtances, that Eddington, near Weſtbury, was much too near to Brixton; for Alfred paſſed the night, after a march from day-break in the middle of May, at Æglea, ſhort of the ſcene of action; that the ancient village of *Daneford* (now Denford), and the town of Hungerford (anciently *Ingleford*), are adjoining to Eddington, and the hamlet of Englewood, on the oppoſite ſide of the Kennet, at a very ſhort diſtance; names which ſeem to imply ſome conſiderable battle between the two nations, of which we have otherwiſe no mention in hiſtory; and it is a further corroboration, that the hundred of Eglei, which no doubt derived its name from ſome place not far diſtant, (though its ſite is not now known,) adjoined to Eddington on the north. It may be remarked, that the manor of *Ethandune*, which Alfred leaves by will to his wife

[j] Gale's Hiſt. Ang. Scrip. I. 144. [k] Sax. Chron. p. 82.

[l] The two ancient hundreds of Eglei and Chenetcberie are now united into one, by the name of Kentbury Eagle.

*Ealhſwith*,

*Ealhſwith*, is mentioned with other Berkſhire lands; and there is no doubt, that it was the manor of Eddington, near Hungerford, now the property of Sir W. J. James bart.

In 1006 the Danes laid waſte this county with fire and ſword: they burnt Reading, Wallingford, Cholſey, and a great many villages, having marched by way of Æſceſdune to *Cwicchelmſlawe*, as before mentioned: they returned by another route, and obtained a victory over the Saxons near the river Kennet [m].

The Chronicle of Robert of Glouceſter, ſpeaking of theſe ravages of the Danes, ſays:—

> "Meſt wo hii dude in Borreſſyre and up Aſſeſdoune,
> And ſo about Quychelmeſley, and ſo in many toune."

In 1011, Berkſhire was under the dominion of king Ethelred [n]. Swain, king of Denmark, appears to have been at Wallingford in 1012 [o].

During the wars between king Stephen and the friends of the empreſs Maud, the caſtles of Faringdon [p] and Newbury [q] were taken by the royal party. Wallingford was one of the ſtrongeſt garriſons of the empreſs, and the place of her retreat when ſhe fled from her enemies at Oxford. It was often beſieged by Stephen, who built a fort on the oppoſite ſide of the river, to attack it with more effect; but it was defended till the termination of the war, by its brave governor Brien Fitz-Count [r]. The peace which enſued was made beneath its walls: the neighbouring caſtle of Brightwell, in this county, and that of Reading, were, by the treaty then made, given up to Henry duke of Normandy [s]. During king Richard's abſence in Paleſtine, his brother John came over from Normandy into England, and ſeized the caſtles of Wallingford and Windſor. Windſor was ſoon retaken by the king's friends; and afterwards both caſtles, purſuant to the articles of a truce, were put into the hands of the Queen Dowager [t]. In 1213, two amicable meetings were held in this county, between king John and his barons, the one at Wallingford, in November, and the other in December at Reading [u]. In 1216 Wallingford was fortified by the king [w], and Windſor was beſieged by the barons [x]. In 1263, Windſor Caſtle was taken by Simon de Montfort [y]. In 1389, a temporary reconciliation was effected between king Richard II. and the diſcontented nobles, at Reading, by the mediation of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaſter [z].

[m] Simon Dunelm. inter Decem Scriptores, & Sax. Chron. 135. [n] Sax. Chron. 140.
[o] Ibid. 143. [p] Brompton, inter Decem Scriptores, I. 1033. [q] Holinſhed.
[r] See Gervas, inter Decem Scriptores, I. 1361 & 1373. [s] Mat. Paris, 72. [t] Holinſhed.
[u] M. Paris, 207, 208. [w] Holinſhed. [x] M. Paris, 241. [y] Ibid. 851. [z] Holinſhed.

During the diſaſtrous civil war in the 17th century, this county was frequently the ſcene of action between the contending parties. King Charles ſettled a ſtrong garriſon at Wallingford, which continued there as long as the royal party were capable of making any ſtand, and was not taken till the cloſe of the war, being one of the laſt garriſons that ſurrendered. Windſor was garriſoned by the parliament, in October 1642, and continued in their poſſeſſion the whole of the war. Prince Rupert once made an unſucceſsful attack upon it. The unfortunate monarch ſpent his laſt Chriſtmas there as a priſoner. Reading was at firſt garriſoned by the parliament; but its governor, Harry Marten, quitted it on the approach of the king's army, in October 1642[a]. The king had then the head-quarters of his horſe at Abingdon; and being poſſeſſed of Reading, as well as Wallingford, commanded the whole of this county, excepting the neighbourhood of Windſor[b].

In April, 1643, Reading was taken by the parliament, after a ſiege of ten days[c]. In September, 1643, was fought the firſt battle of Newbury, in which the Earls of Sunderland and Carnarvon, and the accompliſhed Lord Falkland, loſt their lives: both parties claimed the victory[d]. The Earl of Eſſex marched after the action towards Reading, where he halted a few days; he then drew off all his forces from that town, which was again made a garriſon for the king, under the command of Sir Jacob Aſtley[e]. When king Charles returned to Oxford, after the battle of Newbury, he left a garriſon at Donnington Caſtle, near that town, which was bravely defended by its governor, Col. Boys, during ſeveral ſieges; and notwithſtanding the caſtle was nearly demoliſhed, and he had at one time to reſiſt the attack of the whole of Eſſex's army, he ſucceſsfully maintained his poſt to the laſt[f].

In the ſpring of 1644, the parliament became maſters of all Berkſhire, excepting the garriſon at Wallingford. The king's army, having been quartered a month at Newbury, marched to Reading; and after a few days halt, diſmantled the fortifications, upon which that town was immediately taken poſſeſſion of by the parliament. The royal army, after quitting Reading, held a rendezvous on the Downs, near Compton, and were quartered, for ſome days, in Wantage, and the neighbouring villages[g]. After this the infantry were ordered to Abingdon, for the purpoſe of defending that town; but the general quitted it, without attempting any reſiſtance, on the approach of the Earl of Eſſex, with his army. Abingdon now became a garriſon for the parliament under Col. Browne, and proved a very troubleſome

[a] Clarendon II. 70. 8vo. edit. [b] Ibid. II. 82. [c] Ibid. II. 230. [d] See Clarendon II. 346. 349. and Vicars's Parliamentary Chronicle, 410. 420. [e] Clarendon II. 348.
[f] See more particulars in the account of the parish of Shaw. [g] Walker's Hiſtory, p. 13.

neighbour

neighbour to Oxford. Some attempts were made by the royaliſts to regain it, but without ſucceſs[h]. In October, 1644, a ſecond battle was fought near Newbury: the Earl of Eſſex, in his route to Newbury, where the king was quartered, marched from Baſing, through Aldermaſton, Padworth, and Buckleſbury. This ſecond battle of Newbury, like the firſt, was not ſo deciſive but that both parties claimed the victory[i]. The king, having accompliſhed his purpoſe of relieving Donnington Caſtle, whoſe brave governor he knighted, marched to Lamborn, and thence, by way of Marlborough, to Hungerford, and from Hungerford, through Faringdon, to Oxford. The Earl of Eſſex marched his army into winter-quarters at Reading, Abingdon, &c.

In 1645, Sir Stephen Hawkins made an unſucceſsful attempt on the parliamentary garriſon at Abingdon; and Cromwell, with the ſame ill ſucceſs, attacked the king's garriſon at Faringdon[k]. About the ſame time he was more ſucceſsful in a ſkirmiſh at Radcot-bridge, in that neighbourhood, and took Sir William Vaughan and Col. Littleton priſoners, with 200 of their troops[l]. The only action which happened in Berkſhire, in 1646, and the laſt in that county during the war, was an unſucceſsful attack on Abingdon by Prince Rupert, in March[m]. In the ſummer of that year, Wallingford and Faringdon were ſurrendered to the parliament[n]. Sir Thomas Fairfax's head quarters were at Reading, in July, 1647.

A ſlight ſkirmiſh at Reading, in December 1688[o], was the only action, excepting a more trifling affair at Twyford in this county[p], which took place previouſly to the happy revolution, which ſeated the Prince of Orange on the throne of theſe realms.

## *Ancient and modern Diviſion of Berkſhire.*

When the ſurvey of Domeſday was taken, this county was divided into 22 hundreds. Wallingford and Windſor were aſſeſſed ſeparately. The hundreds were,

Benes, or Beners, now Barneſh;
Blitberie (Blewbury);
Borchedeberie, or Borcheldeberie (Bucklebury);
Bray, ſtill retaining that name;
Cerledone, now Charlton;
Cheneteberie } now united by the name of Kentbury-Eagle;
Eglei }
Eletesford, Helitesford, or Heſliteford;
Gamesfel, now Ganfield;

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[h] See Clarendon II. 484, 485, 487, 554. Heath's Chron. 57, 75, 76.
[i] See more particulars under the account of Newbury. [k] Clarendon II. 546, 550, 553, &c. Heath 65, 66, 75, 97. [l] Heath 75. [m] Perfect Occurrences, March 1646.
[n] Heath 107, 109. [o] See Kennet's Hiſtory. [p] Magna Britannia—Berkſhire.

Hilleſlau;
Hornimere, now Hormer;
Lamborne, or Lambourn, ſtill retaining the ſame name;
Merceham (Marcham);
Nachededorne;
Radinges, or Redinges (Reading);
Ripleſmere, ſtill retaining the ſame name;
Roeberg;
Seriveham, or Shrivenham, ſtill retaining the latter name;
Sudtone (Sutton);
Taceeham, or Thatcham;
Wanating, or Wanting (Wantage), ſtill retaining that name;
Wifol.

The preſent number of hundreds is only twenty; of theſe, eleven retain their ancient names. The modern hundreds are, Compton, Cookham, Faircroſs, Faringdon, Morton, Ock, otherwiſe Oke, Sunning, Theale, and Wargrave. The pariſhes which were in Blitberie, or Blewbury hundred, are now included in that of Moreton, excepting Blewbury itſelf, which is in Reading. The pariſhes which were in the hundred of Borchedeberie (Bucklebury), are now in Faircroſs and Reading. Thoſe which were in the hundred of Eletesford, are now in Moreton; excepting Cholſey, which is in that of Reading. Thoſe which were in the hundred of Hilleſlau, are now added to Shrivenham. The pariſhes which were in the hundred of Merceham, or Marcham, are now in the hundred of Ock, excepting Beſſils-Legh, which is in that of Hormer. Moſt of the pariſhes which were in the hundred of Nachededorne, are now in that of Compton; the others in Faircroſs. Thoſe which were in the hundred of Roeberg, are now in Faircroſs. Thoſe which were in the hundred of Sudtone, are now in Ock, excepting Weſt Hendred, which is in Wanting, and Stanford, which is in Ganfield. Thoſe which were in the hundred of Thatcham, are now in Faircroſs and Reading. Thoſe which were in the hundred of Wifol, are now in that of Faringdon, excepting Buſcot, which is in Shrivenham. The modern hundred of Sonning, or Sunning, was formerly included in the hundred of Cerledone, now Charlton; that of Wargrave was included in Charlton and Ripplesmere; that of Cookham, in Eletesford. The modern hundred of Theale, appears to have been taken out of Reading, which was formerly very extenſive.

A few pariſhes appear to have been removed out of one hundred into another. Remenham, which was anciently in Beners, is now in Charlton. Swallowfield which was in Charlton, is now in Reading.

The hundreds of Barneſh, or Beynhurſt, Bray, Cookham, and Ripplesmere, are in the Crown. The hundreds of Faircroſs and Kentbury-Eagle are held on

leaſe

leaſe under the Crown by the Earl of Craven, the hundreds of Ock and Moreton by Mrs. Sarah Hucks. Alexander Cobham eſq. is lord of the hundred of Charlton. Richard Pottinger eſq. of Compton; William Hallet eſq. of Faringdon; Samuel Worthington eſq. of Ganfield and Wanting; the Earl of Abingdon, of Hormer, which formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon; Richard Benyon eſq. of Reading and Theale; the Hon. and Rev. the Lord Biſhop of Durham, and others, truſtees acting under Lord Barrington's will, of Shrivenham; Richard Palmer eſq. of Sunning; and the Right Hon. Lord Braybroke, of Wargrave.

The following is a liſt of manors mentioned in the Survey of Domeſday, with their modern names as far as they could be aſcertained.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Abingdon | Abingdon | Boroardeſcote | Buſcot |
| Acenge, in the hundred of Thatcham | | Bouſore | Boxford |
| Aneborne | Enborne | Bradfelt | Bradfield |
| Apleford | Appleford, in Sutton-Courtney | Brai | Bray |
| | | Bras*, in the hundred of Beners | |
| Apletune | Appleton | Brintone | Brimpton |
| Ardintone | Ardington | Briſtoldeſtone | Bright-Walton |
| Aſſedone | Aſhdown, in the hundred of Compton | Briſtowelle | Brightwell |
| | | Catmere | Catmere |
| Avingtone | Avington | Cedeledorde | Chaddleworth |
| Bagenor | Bagnor, in Speen | Cedeneorde, in the hunded of Eglei | |
| Baiorde | Bayworth, in Sunningwell | Celrea | Childrey |
| Baſtedene | Baſſildon | Celſeia | Cholſey |
| Becheſgete, in the hundred of Cheneteberie | | Cerletone | Charlton, in Wantage |
| Becote | Becket, in Shrivenham | Cernei | Charney, in Longworth |
| Bedene | Beedon | Ceveſlau | Challow |
| Bedretone | Betterton, near Lockinge | Cheneteberie | Kentbury |
| Beneham | Beenham | Chenitune | Kennington, in Radley and Sunningwell |
| Berceham | Barkham | | |
| Bertune | Barton, in Abingdon | Cherſwelle | Carſwell |
| Biſteham | Biſham | Chingeſtune | Kingſton-Bagpuze |
| Blitberie | Blewbury | Cilletone, or Ciltone | Chilton |
| Bocheland | Buckland | Civelei | Cheveley |
| Bochentone | Bockington, in Lambourn | Clevore | Clewer |
| | | Clopcote | Clapcote, near Wallingford |
| Bocheſore, in the hundred of Cheneteberie | | | |
| Borcheldeberie | Bucklebury | Cocheham | Cookham |
| Borgefelle | Burfield | Cocheſwelle | Coxwell |

* This place, which is deſcribed as having a church, is unlike in name to any place now known. Dr. Beke ſuppoſes it to have been Binfield, anciently Benersfield, which gave name to the hundred, and of which, otherwiſe, there is no mention.

Coleſelle,

Colefelle, or Colefhalle — Colefhill
Comenore — Cumner
Contone — Compton
Coferige — Courage, in Cheveley
Crocheham — Crookham, in Thatcham
Crocheftrope fuppofed to be Coldthrop, in Thatcham
Deneford — Denford, in Avington
Denchefworde — Denchworth
Deriton, in the hundred of Taceham
Dideorde — Dudworth, in Windfor
Draicote — Draycot, in Longworth
Draitune — Drayton
Dudochesforde — Duxford, in Hinton
Elridge, in the hundred of Cheneteberie
Eddevetone —
Edtune, or Eltune — Eaton, in Appleton
Eifefeberie — Afhbury
Elentone — Elynton, in Cookham
Elinge — Elyng, in Hampfted-Norris
Ellcorde — Aldworth
Engelfelle, or Inglefelle — Englefield
Efeldeborne — Shaldbourn, or Shawbourn
Effages — Shaw
Eftone — Afton-Tirold
Eftralei — Streatly
Etingedone — Yatendon
Etone — Eaton-Haftings
Falefiei, or Farellei — Fawley
Ferendone — Faringdon
Fermeberge — Farnborough
Finchameftede — Finchampfted
Fivehide — Fyfield
Folleícote — Fowlefcot, in South-Morton
Frieliford — Frilford, in Marcham
Frilefham — Frilfham
Gainz — Eaft and Weft-Ginge in Lockinge and Weft-Hendred
Gofei — Goofey
Greneham — Greenham, in Thatcham
Hacheborne — Hagbourn
Hameftede — Hampfted-Marfhall, and Hampfted-Norris
Hanlei and Hannei — Hanney
Harewelle, or Harwelle — Harwell
Heldermanftune — Aldermafton
Henret — Eaft and Weft Hendred
Hentone — Hinton
Herlei — Hurley
Herlei, Erlei, or Hurlei — Maiden-Earley, and Earley-White Knights in Sunning
Hevaford, fuppofed to be Hatford
Hildeflei, Hilflei, or Hiflelew — Ilfley
Hingepenne — Inkpen
Hocfelle — Oakfield, in Stratfield-Mortimer
Hodicote — Hodcot in Weft-Ilfley
Hurterige — Hartridge
Inghcflote, or Inglefol — Hungerford
Lachinges — Lockinge
Lamborne — Lamborn
Lecaneftede — Lekhampfted, in Cheveley
Ledecumbe, or Ledencumb — Letcombe
Leie — Beffils-Leigh
Lewartone — Leverton, in Hungerford
Lierecote, in the hundred of Gamesfel, or Ganfield
Linford — Lyford, in Hanney
Lolindone *, in the hundred of Electesford
Lonchelei, in the hundred of Reading
Losfelle, in the hundred of Rippleímere
Merceham — Marcham
Middletune — Milton
Migeham — Midgham, in Thatcham
Mortune — North and South-Moreton

* On the downs between Cholfey and Aldworth is a clump of trees, called Lollingdon clump, and a farm of the fame name.

Nachededorne* - -
Nifteton - - Knighton, in Compton-Beauchamp
Niwetune - - Newington, in Buckland
Offelle, in the hundred of Reading
Offentone - - Uffington
Offetune - - Ufton
Ollavintone - - Woolhampton
Olvelai - - Woolley, in Chaddleworth
Olvricetone - - Woolſton, in Uffington
Optone - - Upton, in Blewbury
Ordegeſton - - Odſtone, in Aſhbury
Ordia - - Longworth, and Littleworth in Faringdon
Ortone, in the hundred of Rippleſmere
Pandeborne, or Pangeborne - Pangborn
Peiſe, or Peſei - - Puſey
Peteorde - - Padworth
Porlei - - - Purley
Praxmere, probably Peaſemore
Radinges, or Redinges Reading
Rameham - - Remenham
Sanford - - Sandford
Selingefell, in the hundred of Cerledone
Serengeford - - Shillingford
Seriveham - - Shrivenham
Sevacoorde - - Seacourt, near Witham
Sewelle, ſuppoſed to be Sulhamſted
Siford - - - Great and Little Shefford
Sipene - - Shipton, near Abingdon
Soanesfelt - - Shinfield
Sogoorde - - Sugworth, in Sunningwell
Solafel - - Swallowfield
Soleham - - Sulham
Soninges - - Sunning
Soningewell - - Sunningwell
Soteſbroc - - Shotteſbrook
Sotwell - - Sotwell, or Satwell
Spone - - Spene
Sperſolt - - Sperſholt
Stanforde and Stanworde - Stanford in the Vale, and Stanford-Dineley
Stivetune - - Steventon
Stradfeld - - Stratfield Mortimer
Taceham - - Thatcham
Tobenie - - Tubney
Uluritone - - Newbury
Wachenesfield - Watchfield, in Shrivenham
Walingeford - - Wallingford
Waliford - - Welford
Walſinge - - Waſing
Wanetinz - - Wantage
Wareford - - Garford, in Marcham
Warwelt - - Warfield
Watcumbe - - Watcombe, in Great Shefford
Wenesfelle - - Winkfield
Weregrave - - Wargrave
Weſtun - - Weſton, in Welford
Wibalditone, in the hundred of Blitberie
Wille - - Wild, in Hampſted-Norris
Windeſores - - Windſor
Winteham - - Witham
Wintreburne - - Winterbourn
Wiſelei - - Whiſtley, in Hurſt
Witeham - - Wittenham
Witelei - - Whitley, near Reading.

Arberfield, Aſhampſted, Didcot, Eaſt Garſton, Hurſt, Radley, Ruſcombe, Sandhurſt, Sandleford, Sunninghill, Tidmarſh, Tylehurſt, Weſt Woodhay, Wokingham,

* This place is deſcribed as having a church, and it gave name to the hundred; there is no town or village at all reſembling it in name, in either of the modern hundreds of Compton or Faircroſs. Dr. Beke ſuppoſes it to have been Market-Ilſley, as being the moſt conſiderable place within that diſtrict. It is certain that the name muſt have undergone an entire change, unleſs it was ſome place which has been quite depopulated, and of which every memorial has been loſt.

and ſeveral conſiderable hamlets and manors, are not mentioned in the ſurvey; nor are the pariſhes of Binfield, Peaſemore, Hatford, and the Sulhamſteds, unleſs they are meant to be deſcribed under the names of Bras, Praxmere, Hevaford, and Sewelle.

### *Eccleſiaſtical Diviſion of Berkſhire.*

THIS county, which lies within the dioceſe of Saliſbury, is ſubject to an archdeacon, whoſe juriſdiction is co-extenſive with the county, and is divided into four deaneries, Abingdon, Newbury, Reading, and Wallingford. Cardinal Wolſey's liſt, quoted by Camden, makes the number of pariſhes 140. The preſent number is 148. This number includes ſeven pariſhes, which have parochial chapels ſubject to other churches, two, (Tubney and All Saints, in Wallingford,) whoſe churches have been deſtroyed, and the three new pariſhes of North and South Hinkſey and Wotton. There are 24 chapels of eaſe. Several others have been deſtroyed, among which are thoſe of Bayworth, Earley, near Reading, Eaſtbury, Farlow, Kennington, Upper Lamborn, Langley, Ounham, North and South Standen, and Watchfield. The benefices of White-Waltham and Shotteſbrook were conſolidated in 1744. Of the 148 pariſhes, 67 are vicarages, and a few others donatives. The great tythes of almoſt the whole of theſe were appropriated to religious houſes, and nearly 40 of them are now in lay hands.

### *Monaſteries, Colleges, and Hoſpitals.*

THE Benedictine monks had two great abbies in this county, Abingdon and Reading, the abbots of which were mitred; a priory at Sandleford, near Newbury, and cells at Hurley and Wallingford. The Benedictine nuns had a priory at Bromhale, in Windſor foreſt. The Auſtin canons had priories at Biſham[r], and at Poghley in Chaddleworth. The Ciſtercians had a cell at Faringdon. The Knights Hoſpitallers had preceptories at Biſham and Brimpton. At Steventon was an alien priory, ſubject to the abbey of Bec, in Normandy. Ancient records and hiſtorians ſpeak of monaſteries at Bradfield, Cholſey, Reading, and Helenſtow, in Abingdon, which were deſtroyed before the conqueſt. At Shotteſbrook and Wallingford were colleges, both ſuppreſſed at the diſſolution. The Royal Chapel of St. George, at Windſor, ſtill remains collegiate. At Abingdon two ancient hoſpitals ſtill exiſt; one of them was refounded in 1533, and the name altered from St. Helen's to Chriſt's Church. There are ancient hoſpitals ſtill remaining alſo at Donnington,

[r] When this monaſtery was refounded by king Hen. VIII. it was repleniſhed with Benedictine monks, under an abbot, who was mitred; but this eſtabliſhment was of very ſhort duration.

Newbury,

Newbury, and Lamborn: two hoſpitals at Reading, and one at Wallingford, were ſuppreſſed and deſtroyed before the Reformation. There were hoſpitals alſo at Hungerford and Fyfield, which have been long ſince deſtroyed.

### *Market and Borough Towns.*

THIS county has no city; Abingdon and Reading are the county towns. The Lent Aſſizes, and the Epiphany Seſſions, are held at Reading; and the Summer Aſſizes and Hilary Seſſions at Abingdon; the Michaelmas Seſſions either at Abingdon or Reading, as the magiſtrates ſhall determine; the Eaſter Seſſions are held at Newbury.

There are four parliamentary boroughs in this county; Abingdon, Reading, Wallingford, and Windſor. Abingdon returns only one, the others two members each. The county returns two members. Newbury is an ancient borough, and in the reign of Edw. I. made a return of burgeſſes to parliament[s]. Thatcham is deſcribed in ancient records as a borough, but never made any return of burgeſſes[t].

The preſent number of market-towns in this county is twelve; Abingdon, Reading, Newbury, Windſor, Wallingford, Maidenhead, Wokingham, Faringdon, Hungerford, Eaſt Ilſley, Lamborn, and Wantage. The firſt ſeven of theſe are incorporated. Abingdon, Reading, Newbury, Wallingford, and Windſor, have great corn-markets: Newbury, Reading, Abingdon, Wallingford, and Windſor, export great quantities of flour, barley, and malt to London. At Newbury the old cuſtom of pitching the corn in open market is ſtill kept up, and the farmers deal for ready money[u]. Ilſley is a very great market for lean ſheep; it is ſaid that there have been inſtances of a ſale of 20,000 on a market day; the annual average is ſaid to be not leſs than 250,000[w]. Wokingham market is remarkable for its abundant ſupply of poultry, bought up by higlers for the conſumption of the metropolis. Faringdon and Abingdon have great horſe fairs; Lamborn a great fair for heifers in calf, colts, &c. Four thouſand ſwine, for the London and Oxford markets, are ſaid to be ſlaughtered annually at Faringdon, between the beginning of November and April[x].

Balking (a hamlet of Uffington), Baſilden, Catmere, Cookham, Eaſt Hendred, Hinton, Kentbury, Shrivenham, Speen, Stanford in the Vale, Thatcham, Wargrave, Weſt Woodhay, and Yatendon, had formerly markets, all of which have been long ago diſcontinued. The market at Cookham is mentioned in the ſurvey

[s] Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria. [t] Ibid. [u] Pearce's Agricultural Survey of Berkſhire.
[w] Ibid. [x] Ibid.

of Domeſday: the charters for the others are to be found among the records in the Tower.

### *Population.*

It appears by ſome obſervations on the ancient population of this county, (communicated by Dr. Beke, Profeſſor of Modern Hiſtory at Oxford,) that, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, it amounted to between 40,000 and 45,000 ſouls; and he ſuppoſes, that, in 1377, the number was nearly the ſame; for, in that year, the heads taxed were 22,723, excluſive of paupers, children, and the clergy; but both theſe periods, he obſerves, were not many years after events of the moſt deſtructive nature; for "Every page of the Domeſday ſurvey indicates the deſolation cauſed by the Norman invaſion; and the peſtilence in the reign of Edw. III. appears, on credible evidence, to have carried off one-third of the people." In 1700 the number of inhabitants in this county is ſaid to have been about 75,000. The number of inhabited houſes in Berkſhire, in 1801, according to the returns then made to Parliament under the Population Act, was 20,573, of uninhabited houſes 622, and of inhabitants 109,215: of theſe 52,821 were males, and 56,394 females: 38,155 were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 16,921 in trades, manufactures, or handicraft.

The following account of the numbers of houſes, families, and perſons, is taken from the above-mentioned return, and arranged alphabetically:

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Perſons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abingdon | 867 | 22 | 1037 | 4356 |
| ——— Barton } Townſhips of Abingdon | 1 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| ——— Norcot } Townſhips of Abingdon | 14 | 1 | 14 | 69 |
| ——— Shippon } Townſhips of Abingdon | 29 | 0 | 29 | 128 |
| Aldermaſton | 132 | 0 | 142 | 672 |
| Aldworth | 50 | 4 | 50 | 273 |
| Appleton | 65 | 3 | 87 | 341 |
| Arborfield | 29 | 2 | 42 | 171 |
| Ardington | 65 | 2 | 65 | 344 |
| Aſhampſted | 58 | 1 | 70 | 314 |
| Aſhbury | 122 | 0 | 142 | 654 |
| Aſton Tirold | 60 | 2 | 60 | 294 |
| Avington | 13 | 0 | 13 | 57 |
| Barkham | 37 | 4 | 39 | 185 |
| Baſildon | 127 | 5 | 135 | 623 |
| Beech-hill } Tything in the Pariſh of Stratfield Saye * | 35 | 2 | 35 | 184 |

* Stratfield Saye itſelf is in Hampſhire.

| | Inhabited Houfes. | Uninhabited Houfes. | Families. | Perſons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beedon | 62 | 1 | 62 | 303 |
| Beenham | 70 | 2 | 73 | 381 |
| Baſils Legh | 19 | 0 | 20 | 99 |
| Binfield | 150 | 8 | 178 | 808 |
| Biſham | 86 | 0 | 114 | 596 |
| Blewbury | 120 | 4 | 120 | 553 |
| ——— Aſton-Upthorpe } in the Pariſh of { | 37 | 2 | 39 | 196 |
| ——— Upton } Blewbury { | 47 | 4 | 57 | 217 |
| Boxford | 37 | 1 | 59 | 293 |
| ——— Weſtbrook (in Boxford) | 23 | 0 | 28 | 123 |
| Bradfield | 153 | 6 | 153 | 678 |
| Bray | 506 | 21 | 526 | 2403 |
| Bright-waltham | 78 | 0 | 80 | 420 |
| Brightwell | 101 | 5 | 110 | 491 |
| Brimpton | 84 | 1 | 88 | 330 |
| Buckland | 128 | 1 | 153 | 690 |
| ——— Carſwell (in Buckland) | 8 | 1 | 9 | 37 |
| Bucklebury | 215 | 3 | 223 | 1122 |
| Burghfield | 130 | 2 | 146 | 738 |
| Buſcot | 75 | 2 | 83 | 409 |
| Chaddleworth | 61 | 1 | 77 | 385 |
| Cheveley | 170 | 1 | 171 | 735 |
| ——— Leckhampſtead } Tythings of Cheveley { | 43 | 1 | 68 | 330 |
| ——— Winterbourne } | 64 | 0 | 66 | 357 |
| Childrey | 81 | 3 | 84 | 402 |
| Chilton | 48 | 2 | 48 | 244 |
| Cholſey | 161 | 6 | 161 | 814 |
| ——— Moulsford (in Cholſey) | 32 | 1 | 36 | 152 |
| Clewer | 191 | 4 | 212 | 1007 |
| Coleſhill | 51 | 0 | 69 | 261 |
| Compton | 97 | 2 | 102 | 488 |
| Compton-Beauchamp | 23 | 0 | 23 | 119 |
| Cookham | 325 | 9 | 346 | 2239 |
| Great Coxwell | 43 | 4 | 59 | 241 |
| Cumner | 63 | 0 | 91 | 406 |
| ——— Botley } | 18 | 2 | 18 | 68 |
| ——— Bradley } | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| ——— Chawley } in the Pariſh of Cumner { | 13 | 0 | 13 | 72 |
| ——— Chilſwell } | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| ——— Hill-end } | 13 | 0 | 18 | 64 |
| ——— Stroud } | 11 | 0 | 12 | 64 |
| Denchworth | 33 | 0 | 44 | 229 |
| Drayton | 90 | 3 | 90 | 484 |
| Dudcot | 34 | 0 | 38 | 181 |

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Perſons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eaton-Haſtings | 22 | 1 | 20 | 137 |
| Enborne | 46 | 4 | 58 | 275 |
| Englefield | 62 | 0 | 119 | 336 |
| Faringdon | 304 | 5 | 381 | 1691 |
| ——— Little Coxwell, in the Pariſh of Faringdon | 42 | 1 | 51 | 225 |
| ——— Hoſpital, in the Pariſh of Faringdon | 7 | 0 | 7 | 48 |
| ——— Littleworth and Thorpe, in the Pariſh of Faringdon | 32 | 0 | 34 | 189 |
| Farnborough | 42 | 0 | 43 | 213 |
| Fawley | 25 | 2 | 38 | 186 |
| Finchampſtead | 83 | 1 | 96 | 463 |
| Frilſham | 42 | 3 | 42 | 187 |
| Fyfield | 67 | 5 | 82 | 315 |
| Eaſt Garſton | 111 | 2 | 128 | 609 |
| Gooſey | 21 | 0 | 27 | 139 |
| Grampound Townſhip * | 36 | 1 | 42 | 172 |
| Eaſt Hagbourn | 102 | 2 | 112 | 499 |
| —— Weſt Hagbourn (in the Pariſh of Eaſt Hagbourn) | 39 | 1 | 38 | 196 |
| Eaſt Hampſted | 87 | 4 | 114 | 566 |
| Hampſted-Marſhall | 49 | 0 | 67 | 271 |
| Hampſted-Norris | 168 | 5 | 173 | 855 |
| Weſt Hanney | 70 | 4 | 74 | 330 |
| ——— Eaſt Hanney, in the Pariſh of Weſt Hanney | 112 | 0 | 115 | 535 |
| ——— Lyford, in the Pariſh of Weſt Hanney | 24 | 0 | 30 | 124 |
| Harwell | 122 | 0 | 141 | 671 |
| Hatford | 19 | 0 | 19 | 114 |
| Eaſt Hendred | 118 | 5 | 155 | 683 |
| Weſt Hendred | 62 | 5 | 63 | 309 |
| North Hinkſey | 25 | 0 | 30 | 111 |
| South Hinkſey | 36 | 2 | 40 | 162 |
| Hinton | 54 | 1 | 54 | 275 |
| Hungerford † | 383 | 15 | 402 | 1987 |
| Hurley | 170 | 0 | 179 | 915 |
| Hurſt ‡, Newland liberty | 55 | 0 | 63 | 258 |
| —— Whiſtley liberty | 116 | 4 | 117 | 616 |
| —— Winnerſh liberty | 64 | 5 | 82 | 329 |
| Eaſt Ilſley | 112 | 2 | 135 | 512 |

* The Berkſhire part of the ſuburbs of Oxford, lying within the pariſh of St. Aldate's in that city.

† Part of the pariſh of Hungerford (not included in the above return) is in Wiltſhire, containing 55 inhabited and one uninhabited houſe, 57 families and 305 inhabitants.

‡ The liberty of Broad Hinton, which is in this pariſh, lies in Wiltſhire; it contained, in 1801, 75 inhabited houſes, the ſame number of families, one uninhabited houſe, and 406 perſons not included in the above return.

| | Inhabited Houfes. | Uninhabited Houfes. | Families. | Perſons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Weſt Ilſley | 48 | 0 | 63 | 341 |
| Inkpen | 127 | 7 | 127 | 590 |
| Kentbury | 282 | 8 | 332 | 1430 |
| Kingſton-Bagpuze | 56 | 1 | 63 | 280 |
| Lamborn | 197 | 3 | 220 | 964 |
| —— Upper Lamborn (in the Pariſh of Lamborn) | 64 | 0 | 75 | 346 |
| —— Blagrave (in the Pariſh of Lamborn) | 65 | 2 | 72 | 337 |
| —— Eaſtbury and Bockhampton (in the Pariſh of Lamborn) | 79 | 1 | 83 | 398 |
| Langford | 79 | 1 | 85 | 356 |
| —— Little Faringdon (in the Pariſh of Langford) | 23 | 1 | 27 | 131 |
| Letcombe-Baſſet | 45 | 0 | 45 | 230 |
| Letcombe-Regis | 95 | 1 | 98 | 394 |
| —— Eaſt Challow (in the Pariſh of Letcombe-Regis) | 53 | 2 | 55 | 229 |
| —— Weſt Challow (in the Pariſh of Letcombe-Regis) | 27 | 0 | 27 | 185 |
| Eaſt Lockinge | 57 | 2 | 59 | 245 |
| Longworth | 79 | 0 | 85 | 401 |
| —— Charney (in the Pariſh of Longworth) | 40 | 1 | 43 | 216 |
| —— Draycot-Moore (in the Pariſh of Longworth) | 20 | 1 | 27 | 141 |
| Marcham | 144 | 0 | 144 | 607 |
| —— Frilford (Hamlets of Marcham) | 23 | 2 | 31 | 148 |
| —— Garford (Hamlets of Marcham) | 37 | 1 | 40 | 183 |
| Maidenhead (in the Pariſhes of Cookham and Bray*) | 156 | 4 | 179 | 949 |
| Milton | 66 | 0 | 66 | 310 |
| North Moreton | 55 | 2 | 64 | 282 |
| South Moreton | 72 | 3 | 74 | 320 |
| Newbury | 931 | 34 | 971 | 4275 |
| Padworth | 44 | 0 | 48 | 218 |
| Pangbourn | 78 | 2 | 131 | 593 |
| Peaſemore | 54 | 0 | 56 | 266 |
| Purley | 27 | 1 | 27 | 153 |
| Puſey | 16 | 2 | 16 | 65 |
| Radley | 46 | 0 | 78 | 368 |
| Thorpe-wick (in Radley) | 3 | 0 | 4 | 25 |
| Kennington (in Radley and Sunningwell) | 17 | 2 | 21 | 86 |
| Reading (Pariſh of St. Giles) | 651 | 10 | 769 | 3416 |
| —— Whitley (in the Pariſh of St. Giles) | 4 | 0 | 4 | 28 |
| —— Pariſh of St. Lawrence | 561 | 13 | 706 | 3170 |
| —— Pariſh of St. Mary | 539 | 9 | 660 | 3156 |
| Remenham | 56 | 2 | 66 | 299 |
| Ruſcomb | 27 | 0 | 37 | 170 |
| Sandhurſt | 34 | 2 | 43 | 222 |

* The houſes and inhabitants in Maidenhead, ſeem to have been included alſo in the returns of the reſpective pariſhes of Cookham and Bray.

Sandleford

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Perſons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sandleford | 3 | 0 | 3 | 18 |
| Satwell | 25 | 3 | 30 | 68 |
| Seacourt, extra-parochial | 7 | 0 | 7 | 30 |
| Shalbourn * | 92 | 0 | 109 | 502 |
| Shaw and Donnington | 96 | 5 | 101 | 424 |
| Eaſt Shefford | 9 | 0 | 16 | 70 |
| Weſt Shefford | 88 | 2 | 90 | 422 |
| Shillingford | 53 | 1 | 65 | 253 |
| Shilton | 40 | 0 | 56 | 253 |
| Shinfield † | 96 | 4 | 100 | 462 |
| ——— Hartley-Dummer (in Shinfield) | 45 | 1 | 51 | 252 |
| Shotteſbrook | 17 | 0 | 20 | 94 |
| Shrivenham | 112 | 0 | 127 | 611 |
| ——— Bourton (in the pariſh of Shrivenham) | 52 | 0 | 53 | 257 |
| ——— Fearnham (in the pariſh of Shrivenham) | 26 | 1 | 34 | 158 |
| ——— Longcot (in the pariſh of Shrivenham) | 68 | 2 | 75 | 368 |
| ——— Watchfield (in the pariſh of Shrivenham) | 57 | 1 | 61 | 305 |
| Speen | 71 | 0 | 71 | 408 |
| ——— Benham (in the pariſh of Speen) | 42 | 1 | 55 | 256 |
| ——— Speenhamland (in the pariſh of Speen) | 140 | 7 | 148 | 712 |
| ——— Wood Speen and Bagnor (in the pariſh of Speen) | 79 | 10 | 91 | 371 |
| Sparſholt | 76 | 4 | 87 | 410 |
| ——— Kingſton-Liſle, and Farlow (townſhips of Sparſholt) | 34 | 0 | 49 | 261 |
| Stanford in the Vale, | 124 | 5 | 132 | 607 |
| Stanford-Dingley | 28 | 3 | 28 | 133 |
| Steventon | 101 | 8 | 130 | 537 |
| Stratfield-Mortimer | 128 | 4 | 131 | 694 |
| Streatley | 106 | 3 | 106 | 556 |
| Sulham | 19 | 1 | 23 | 118 |
| Sulhamſted-Abbots | 51 | 2 | 66 | 305 |
| ——— Grieſley liberty (in Sulhamſted Abbots) | 17 | 1 | 20 | 87 |
| Sulhamſted Banniſter | 46 | 1 | 64 | 259 |
| Sunning, including Woodley | 187 | 4 | 228 | 1111 |
| ——— Early liberty (in the pariſh of Sunning) | 73 | 2 | 78 | 436 |
| ——— Sandford (in the pariſh of Sunning) | 23 | 1 | 27 | 122 |
| Sunninghill | 138 | 20 | 155 | 700 |
| Sunningwell | 34 | 0 | 39 | 197 |
| Sutton-Courtney | 141 | 1 | 166 | 874 |
| ——— Sutton-Wick (Townſhips of Sutton Courtney) | 36 | 1 | 39 | 198 |
| ——— Appleford (Townſhips of Sutton Courtney) | 36 | 2 | 37 | 200 |

* Part of this pariſh, not included in the above return, containing 52 houſes, 58 families, and 272 perſons, lies in Wiltſhire.

† Part of this pariſh, not included in the above return, containing 28 inhabited, and one uninhabited houſe, 30 families, and 155 inhabitants, lies in the county of Wilts.

Swallowfield

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Perſons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Swallowfield | 165 | 4 | 174 | 890 |
| Thatcham | 407 | 17 | 419 | 1995 |
| ——— Greenham } in the Pariſh of { Thatcham | 132 | 3 | 135 | 633 |
| ——— Midgham } in the Pariſh of { Thatcham | 43 | 0 | 58 | 340 |
| Tidmarſh | 24 | 3 | 27 | 134 |
| Tubney | 13 | 0 | 13 | 79 |
| Tylehurſt * | 254 | 8 | 262 | 1353 |
| Uffington | 76 | 6 | 109 | 432 |
| ——— Balking } in the Pariſh of { Uffington | 31 | 0 | 32 | 173 |
| ——— Woolſton } in the Pariſh of { Uffington | 38 | 0 | 57 | 208 |
| Ufton | 53 | 0 | 67 | 334 |
| Wallingford, Pariſh of All Saints | 17 | 0 | 18 | 80 |
| ——— Clapcote, in the Pariſh of All Saints | 8 | 0 | 8 | 55 |
| ——— Pariſh of St. Mary the More | 154 | 3 | 184 | 721 |
| ——— Pariſh of St. Peter | 75 | 1 | 80 | 396 |
| ——— Wallingford Caſtle, extra-parochial | 3 | 0 | 3 | 14 |
| Laurence Waltham | 111 | 7 | 116 | 572 |
| White Waltham | 115 | 6 | 116 | 552 |
| Wantage | 473 | 16 | 493 | 2339 |
| ——— Charlton } Hamlets of { Wantage | 46 | 2 | 56 | 247 |
| ——— Grove } Hamlets of { Wantage | 93 | 2 | 95 | 397 |
| ——— Weſt Lockinge } Hamlets of { Wantage | 14 | 0 | 14 | 60 |
| Warfield | 158 | 2 | 161 | 820 |
| Wargrave | 222 | 3 | 276 | 1134 |
| Waſing | 9 | 0 | 18 | 102 |
| Welford | 170 | 4 | 193 | 866 |
| Old Windſor | 118 | 6 | 132 | 669 |
| New Windſor † | 507 | 33 | 580 | 3122 |
| ——— Didworth, a Hamlet of Windſor | 13 | 0 | 15 | 75 |
| Windſor Caſtle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 239 |
| Winkfield | 258 | 9 | 293 | 1465 |
| Witham | 40 | 0 | 58 | 246 |
| Little Wittenham | 23 | 2 | 25 | 134 |
| Long Wittenham | 94 | 0 | 116 | 451 |
| Wokingham Town | 280 | 18 | 314 | 1380 |
| Wokingham Pariſh (excluſive of the Town) | 135 | 4 | 144 | 647 |
| Weſt Woodhay | 22 | 2 | 29 | 109 |
| Woolhampton | 43 | 0 | 60 | 322 |
| Wotton | 43 | 0 | 48 | 236 |
| Yattendon | 52 | 1 | 52 | 253 |

The pariſh of Catmere, which is omitted in the parliamentary report, contains 13 houſes and 69 inhabitants; eleven of the houſes, containing 45 inhabitants, are in the hamlet of Lilly.

* This pariſh, in 1783, contained only 206 houſes and 1058 perſons.

† Excluſive of that part of the town which lies within the pariſh of Clewer, and is ſtated in the report to contain 168 inhabited, and 3 uninhabited houſes, 226 families, and 688 inhabitants.

*Principal Land Owners of the County, at various Periods, and principal extinct Families.*

When the ſurvey of Domeſday was taken, 46 manors, in this county, were veſted in the Crown. Berkſhire has always been a favourite royal reſidence. The Saxon monarchs had palaces at Abingdon, Faringdon, Wantage, and Old Windſor. King Henry I. in the year 1110, removed his court from Old to New Windſor, which has ever ſince continued to be one of the chief royal palaces, and is the principal ſummer reſidence of our preſent gracious Sovereign; who, beſides the princely domain of Windſor foreſt, retains in his own hands ſome of the neighbouring manors, and the adjoining hundreds of Bray, Cookham, Beynhurſt, and Ripplesmere.

At the time of the Domeſday ſurvey, the abbot and convent of Abingdon had 31 manors in Berkſhire, which they kept in their own hands, beſides ſeveral others, of which they had the fee. The greateſt lay-proprietor was Henry de Ferrars, Earl of Derby, anceſtor of the noble family of Ferrars of Chartley, who had 22 manors; William Fitz-Anſculf, anceſtor of the Paganels, had 12 manors; the Earl of Evreux had nine manors; Gilbert de Bretville, Walter Fitz-Other, anceſtor of the Windſors, Geffrey de Mandeville, and Ralph de Mortimer, had ſix manors each; Robert D'oiley, five; Haſcoit Muſard, Roger de Iveri, Humphrey Vis de Lou, Turſtan Fitz-Rolf, and Theodoric, the King's goldſmith, four each; Gilbert, brother of Anſculf, William de Ow, William Lovet, and William, brother of Corbucion, three each. No other perſon had more than two.

Very few of theſe eſtates continued long in the ſame families which poſſeſſed them at the time of the ſurvey. The Windſors retained the manor of Hagbourn for three centuries, but the reſt of their eſtates had long before paſſed into other hands. The Mortimers held Stratfield-Mortimer, and ſome other manors in this county, for ſeveral generations. Fitz-Anſculf's eſtates deſcended from the Paganels to the baronial family of Somery, and eventually became divided among co-heirs. The Muſards poſſeſſed their eſtates till the reign of Henry the Third. After the foundation of Reading abbey, that monaſtery became poſſeſſed of ſeveral manors in this county.

Between the periods of the Norman Conqueſt and the Reformation, few inſtances occur of lay families, whoſe landed property in Berkſhire was very extenſive. Among thoſe whoſe eſtates were moſt conſiderable may be reckoned the Achards, whoſe name firſt occurs in the reign of Henry I.; the Fitz-Warrens, who became poſſeſſed of property in this county in the reign of King John; the De la Beches, and their heirs and ſucceſſors the Langfords, who became extinct in the reign of

King

King Henry VIII.; the families of Norris and Beſils; the De la Poles, who ſucceeded to large eſtates by a match with the heireſs of Thomas Chaucer, ſon of the poet, who ſeems to have poſſeſſed them in right of his wife, an heireſs of the Burgherſts; the family of Eſſex, and the Winchcombes. All theſe families are long ſince extinct in the male line, and moſt of their lands alienated. The eſtates of the Achards paſſed, by female heirs, to the Delamares and Forſters; thoſe of the Fitz-Warrens to the Bourchiers. Some of the eſtates of the Norris family are ſtill in the poſſeſſion of their repreſentatives, the Berties: thoſe of the Beſils family paſſed, by a female heir, to the Fettiplaces, who became very numerous, and had extenſive landed property in this county, a ſmall part of which, conſiſting principally of a manor in Childrey, which they poſſeſſed long before their match with the heireſs of Beſils, (as early as the reign of King John,) is now the property of Charles Fettiplace eſq. their repreſentative in the female line. His father, Robert Buſhell eſq. aſſumed the name, on the death of Sir George Fettiplace bart. the laſt heir male in 1743. The families of Eſſex and Winchcombe acquired large property in this county, in the reign of Henry VIII. The eſtates of the former family (now extinct) were partly inherited from the family of Rogers, of Benham, and partly acquired by purchaſe and grant. The founder of the Winchcombe family was the celebrated clothier, John Smallwood, alias Winchcombe, commonly called Jack of Newbury, famous for his opulence and patriotiſm: Henry Winchcombe, his deſcendant, was created a baronet by King Charles II.; both the title and family are extinct: their eſtates paſſed by marriage to the Packers, who were of Shillingford, early in the 17th century, and from them, by another female heir, to the Hartleys, who are now the repreſentatives of both families.

Fuller obſerves, in his quaint language, "that the lands of Berkſhire are very ſkittiſh, and apt to caſt their owners;" which he imputes, not ſo much to the unrulineſs of the beaſts, as to the unſkilfulneſs of the riders; and expreſſes a hearty wiſh, that the Berkſhire gentry may be better ſettled in their ſaddles, ſo that the ſweet places in this county might not be ſubject to ſo many mutations. This author's remark might be applied, with equal propriety, to the preſent ſtate of landed property in this county. There are but few large eſtates which have continued many generations in the ſame family. One or two have been already mentioned. The eſtates of the Nevilles, who became poſſeſſed of large property in this county, partly by marriage with the Stavertons, but principally by grant from the crown, ſoon after the Reformation, now belong to their repreſentative, Lord Braybrooke. The large eſtates of the Craven family have been in their poſſeſſion nearly two centuries. The families of Reade, Head, and Southby, of whom future mention will be made, have poſſeſſed eſtates in Berkſhire for ſomewhat more than two centuries. The

families of Englefield, Eyſton, and Clarke, for a ſtill longer period. But the principal object of the preſent head is to treat of *extinct* families, or ſuch as are no longer connected with the county.

John Hungerford eſq. who died without iſſue, ſeiſed of the manor of Hungerford-Ingleford, in 1729, was the laſt of that ancient and noble family, who ſeems to have had any connection with this county. John Peach Hungerford eſq. of Dingley-Hall, in Northamptonſhire, is a lineal deſcendant of one of the branches of this family. The Vachells, of Coley, near Reading, who are mentioned by Fuller as one of the moſt ancient families in the county, quitted all connection with it in the early part of the laſt century, and removed into Cambridgeſhire. The family of Puſey, which became extinct in the male line by the death of Charles Puſey eſq. in 1710, are ſaid to have been ſettled at Puſey before the Conqueſt, and to have held that eſtate by cornage, or the ſervice of a horn, under a grant of King Canute. Camden and Fuller both mention this circumſtance: the latter obſerves, that, though perſons of regard, none of the name appear as ſheriffs of the county. It may be obſerved alſo, that their name is not to be found in the liſt of gentry, bearing date 1433; yet it is certain, that the family was of great antiquity, and had been ſettled at Puſey at a very early period. Henry Puſey was lord of a manor in Puſey, in the year 1316, as appears by the *Nomina Villarum*, in the Britiſh Muſeum[y], being the only record of a public nature, in which the name has been found to occur; but there are family deeds, which prove that the anceſtors of this Henry Puſey had been ſettled at Puſey, at leaſt ſix generations before his time; that he himſelf was afterwards a knight, and that ſeveral others of the family were alſo of equeſtrian rank[z]. The preſent proprietor of the eſtate, who has taken the ancient family name, is the honourable Philip Puſey, uncle, by the half blood, of the preſent Earl of Radnor, who became poſſeſſed of it by gift of the two nieces of the laſt Mr. Puſey. The Wollaſcots, who had conſiderable eſtates at Brimpton, Woolhampton, &c. became extinct not many years ago: the Earl of Fingal married the heireſs of that family. The Pleydells, who had eſtates at Coleſhill and Shrivenham, are repreſented by the earl of Radnor. The Blagraves, of Bulmarſh and Southcot, who were of the former place early in the 16th century, are extinct in the male line: a daughter of the laſt Mr. Blagrave is now the wife of a gentleman of the ſame name, John Blagrave eſq. of Calcot, whoſe family had been ſettled, for a conſiderable time, at Watchfield, in Shrivenham. The Nelſons, who were ſettled at Chaddleworth about two centuries ago, became extinct in 1748: they are repreſented, in the female line, by Richard Walter Nelſon eſq. the preſent proprietor of the

[y] No. 6281. Harl. MSS.

[z] See a pedigree of the family of Puſey, in the Archæologia, vol. XII. p. 400.

eſtate.

eſtate. The Lovedens, who came out of Buckinghamſhire, and are mentioned in the liſt of gentry of that county, A. D. 1433, became extinct in the male line, by the death of Edward Loveden, in 1713: their preſent repreſentative is Edward Loveden Loveden eſq. of Buſcot Park. The Tippings, who ſettled at Woolley park in 1566, became extinct in 1798. The Lenthalls, who have poſſeſſed Beſils-Legh nearly two centuries, ſtill retain that eſtate, but have no reſidence in Berkſhire. Captain Pocock, who poſſeſſes a manor in Hagbourn, which has been in his family nearly two centuries, has no reſidence in this county. The family of Pocock were very numerous in Berkſhire, and are to be met with in records of the 15th century. The Archers, who ſettled at Welford about the year 1650, became extinct in the male line by the death of the late Mr. Archer, in 1800. The Breedons, who ſettled at Bere-Court, near Pangbourn, in 1671, became extinct in the male line, by the death of the late John Breedon, M. D.; they are repreſented by the preſent proprietor of Bere-Court, who has taken the name.

*Ancient and Preſent Nobility of Berkſhire, including thoſe who have taken their Titles from Places in that County.*

CAMDEN obſerves, that the county of Berks had given title to no man. In 1620, not long after the date of this obſervation, Francis Norris was created Earl of Berkſhire, but, dying without male iſſue, the title very ſoon became extinct. In 1625, Thomas Howard was created Earl of Berkſhire. Henry Bowes Howard, the fourth Earl, having ſucceeded to the Earldom of Suffolk, on the failure of male iſſue in an elder branch of the family, the titles have been ever ſince united. James Bertie, Lord Norris, was, in 1682, created Earl of Abingdon: the title is now enjoyed by his great grandſon. William Lord Knolles was created Viſcount Wallingford, in 1616. This title is ſtill nominally enjoyed with the Earldom of Banbury, by a deſcendant, whoſe claim has not as yet been recognized by the Houſe of Lords. Sir William Craven was created Baron Craven, of Hampſted-Marſhall, in 1627, and Viſcount Craven, of Uffington, in 1664. This title became extinct at his death; but the barony, purſuant to a patent of 1665, devolved to a collateral branch of the family. The preſent Lord Craven was, 1801, created Viſcount Uffington, and Earl of Craven. Newbury gave the title of Baron to Charles Fitzroy, natural ſon of King Charles II. who was created Duke of Southampton in 1675. Baron of Oakingham was one of the titles of Prince George of Denmark, when he was created an Engliſh Peer.

The following perſons, when ſummoned to parliament, or created Peers, were deſcribed as of places in this county. Thomas St. Amand, Lord St. Amand, of Woodhay, 1299; Thomas Weſt, who married his daughter and heir, Lord St. Amand, of Woodhay, 1344; Nicholas de Carru, Lord Carru, of Moulsford, 1300;

Nicholas De la Beche, Lord De la Beche, of Aldworth, 1344; Neville Lovelace, Lord Lovelace, of Hurley, 1627; Sir Jacob Aſtley, Baron Aſtley, of Reading, 1644; Lord Bernard Stuart, Baron Stuart, of Newbury, and Earl of Litchfield, 1644; William Cadogan, Baron Cadogan, of Reading, 1716. All theſe titles are extinct. The preſent Lord Cadogan is Lord Cadogan, of Oakley, in Buckinghamſhire, under a patent of 1718.

*Noblemen's Seats.*

The preſent ſeats of the nobility in this county are, Aſhdown Park, the Earl of Craven's; Witham, the Earl of Abingdon's; Coleſhill, the Earl of Radnor's, in the occupation of his ſon, Lord Viſcount Folkſtone; Eaſt-Hampſted Park, the Marchioneſs of Downſhire's; White-Knights, the Marquis of Blandford's; and Billingbere, Lord Braybrooke's; Becket Houſe, the ſeat of the noble family of Barrington, is about to be altered and enlarged; Benham Place, one of the ſeats of the late Lord Craven, is, by purchaſe from her ſon, the property of his relict, now the conſort of his Serene Highneſs, the Margrave of Brandenburgh Anſpach, who reſides there in the ſummer ſeaſon. There are no remains of Hampſted-Marſhal, once the magnificent ſeat of the Craven family. Lord Lindores has a ſeat at Bray, called Gay's, of which he became poſſeſſed in right of his wife, one of the co-heireſſes of Sir Thomas Reeve. The Dowager Lady Onſlow reſides at Old Windſor. The Dowager Lady Howard of Walden, occupies the ſeat of the late Lord Chief Juſtice Eyre, at Ruſcomb. Lord Dorcheſter has lately purchaſed Stubbins, in Biſham, for his own reſidence; and Lord Aſhbrook, Beaumont Lodge, in Old Windſor.

*Baronets extinct, and exiſting.*

The extinct Baronets of this county are Eſſex, of Becket, created in 1612; Forſter, of Aldermaſton, 1620, extinct in 1711; Darrell, of Weſt Woodhay, 1622; Yate, of Buckland, in 1622, extinct in 1690; Vanlore, of Tylehurſt, 1628; Pratt, of Coleſhill, 1641; Henn, of Winkfield, 1642; Draper, of Sunninghill Park, 1660; Morland, of Sulhamſted-Banniſter, 1660; Rich, of Sunning, 1661, extinct in 1803; Fettiplace, of Childrey, 1661, extinct in 1743; Craven, of Sparſholt, 1661, extinct in 1670; of Winchcombe, of Bucklebury, 1661, extinct in 1703; Braham, of New Windſor, 1662; Purefoy, of Wadley, 1662; Hoby, of Biſham, 1666, extinct in 1766; Kenrick, of Whitley, 1679; Ayſhcombe, of Lyford, 1696, extinct in 1718.

The Baronets who now have ſeats in the county, are Sir John Throckmorton, of Buckland; Sir Joſeph Andrews, of Shaw; Sir William Eaſt, of Hall-Place; Sir W. J. James, of Langley Park; Sir George Bowyer, of Radley; and Sir Stephen Luſhington, of South-Hill: Baſilden, the ſeat of the late Sir Francis Sykes, has devolved to his grandſon, a minor. The anceſtor of the Throckmortons was of Warwickſhire, when he was advanced to the dignity of a Baronet;

Baronet; the family became poſſeſſed of Buckland, their Berkſhire ſeat, by a marriage with the heireſs of Yate. Sir Walter James James, who was created a Baronet in 1791, took the name of James, on inheriting the eſtates of a family, who had conſiderable property in the neighbourhood of Hungerford, and other parts of the county, for nearly two centuries. His own paternal name was Head, being deſcended from a family of conſiderable antiquity, who acquired Langley and other eſtates by purchaſe from the De la Poles[a]. Sir W. J. James has not of late reſided at Langley. Sir Francis Engleſield, when advanced to the dignity of a Baronet in 1612, was deſcribed of Wotton-Baſſet, in Wiltſhire; his anceſtors had reſided for many generations at Engleſied, in this county, where at a very early period they held the manor under the Barons Paganel and Somery. The manor of Engleſield was forfeited in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but ſome property in that pariſh remained, till very lately, in the family. The immediate anceſtors of Sir Henry Charles Engleſield, the preſent Baronet, who is deſcended from Anthony, the fifth ſon of Sir Francis above mentioned, were of White-Knights, in Sunning, which having been ſold, he has now no reſidence in the county, but ſtill retains a conſiderable eſtate in the pariſh of Sunning. Fawley, the ſeat of the Moores, whoſe anceſtor was created a Baronet in 1627, was ſold by Sir John Moore, in 1765, to the Vanſittarts. The preſent Baronet, Sir Thomas Moore, reſides in Hampſhire. The anceſtors of Compton Reade, who was created a Baronet in 1660, being deſcribed of Barton, near Abingdon, reſided at that place as early as the reign of Henry VIII. The preſent Baronet is of Hunt-ridge in Oxfordſhire. Barton Court, and other eſtates in Berkſhire, are ſtill in the family, being now the property of the Dowager Lady Reade. William Stonhouſe, whoſe anceſtors were ſettled at Radley, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was created a Baronet in 1628. Another patent was granted to the family in 1670, under which the preſent Sir Thomas Stonhouſe, who reſides in the Eaſt Indies, enjoys the title. The Radley eſtate has paſſed by a female heir to Sir George Bowyer, whoſe father, the late Admiral Bowyer, being then of Radley, was created a Baronet in 1794, and in 1799 ſucceeded to the title of his elder brother, Sir William Bowyer bart. of Denham-Court, in Buckinghamſhire. The late Sir Charles Knowles was of Lovel-Hill, in the pariſh of Winkfield, when created a Baronet in 1765. Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, when created a Baronet in 1783, was of Holly-Grove, in the pariſh of Old Windſor, but has ſince quitted the county. Sir Henry Martin, when created a Baronet in 1791, was deſcribed of Lockinge, in this county; but he had no other connection with that place, than occaſionally

[a] From the information of Sir W. J. James bart.

occupying

occupying Mr. Baſtard's houſe. Sir Charles Saxton was deſcribed of Circourt, in Denchworth, when created a Baronet in 1794; Sir Nathaniel Dance Holland, of Wittenham, in 1800; and Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe, of Chilton, in 1802. The three Baronets laſt mentioned have eſtates, but no ſeats, in the pariſhes of which they are deſcribed. Sir Nathaniel Duckenfield, a Cheſhire Baronet, has a ſeat at Stanlake, in this county, lately purchaſed. Sir John Coxe Hippeſley has a ſeat at Warfield Grove; and Sir John Harrington, at Old Windſor.

The late Sir Archer Croft had a ſeat called Dunſtan Houſe, in the pariſh of Thatcham, which, in the letter-preſs accompanying Rocque's map, publiſhed in 1761, is called one of the fineſt ſeats in the county. It has been pulled down ſince Sir Archer's death, and the eſtate ſold.

## *Principal Gentry and their Seats.*

"MANY neat houſes and pleaſant ſeats there be," ſays Fuller, "in this county, both on the Kennet and Thames, as Aldermaſton, Englefield," &c. Theſe ſtill rank among the moſt diſtinguiſhed in the county, in which claſs alſo may be placed, Buſcot Park, Holme Park, in Sunning; Padworth Houſe, Puſey Houſe, Sandleford, and Swallowfield. The following liſt of gentlemen's ſeats will be found, it is hoped, pretty full and accurate. It is almoſt impoſſible to avoid ſome omiſſions, particularly in the eaſtern part of the county, and the neighbourhood of Windſor Foreſt; where it is probable there are many elegant nameleſs villas, which it would be difficult to enumerate:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aldermaſton, | the ſeat of | Wm. Congreve eſq. | Betterton, | the ſeat of | Rev. John Collins |
| Appleton, | | Robert Southby eſq. | Bill Hill (Hurſt), | | Col. Leveſon Gower |
| Arborfield, in the occupation of S. W. Barrett eſq. | | | Binfield, | | O. E. Elliot eſq. |
| Ardington, | | W. Wiſeman Clarke eſq. | ———, | | Claude Ruſſel eſq. |
| Aſcot (in Winkfield), | | Danl. Agace eſq. | —— (Pope's Houſe), | | Thomas Neate eſq. |
| Babham-end (Cookham), | | Adml. Sir G. Young | Biſham Abbey, | | G Vanſittart eſq. M.P. |
| Barton (Kentbury), | | C. Dundas eſq. M.P. | Bradfield Houſe, | | Rev. Hen. Steevens |
| Beams (Shinfield), | | H. L. Hunter eſq. | Bradfield Hall, | | Stephen Wilſon eſq. |
| Bear Place (Wargrave), | | Moſes Ximenes eſq. | Braywick Houſe, | | Hon. T. Windſor |
| Beenham, | | Rev. Mr. Boſtock | ——— Lodge, | | Thomas Slack eſq. |
| Bere-Court (Pangborn), | | Rev. Dr. Breedon | Bucklebury, | | The Hartleys, now belonging to W. H. H. Hartley, a minor. |
| | | | Buſcot Park, | | E. L. Loveden eſq. |

Calcot

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Calcot (Tylehurſt), | the ſeat of | John Blagrave eſq. |
| Canon Hill (Bray), | | James Law eſq. |
| Carſwell (Buckland) | | T. W. C. Perfect eſq. |
| Chaddleworth, | | R. W. Nelſon eſq. |
| Eaſt Challow, | | E. Turner eſq. |
| Charlton, - | | Wm. Price eſq. |
| Coley Houſe (Reading), - - | | J. MacConnell eſq. |
| Compton-Beauchamp, - | | J. A. Wright eſq. M.P. (in the occupation of Mr. Morell.) |
| Culham Court, | | Hon. Fr. Weſt. |

Donnington Caſtle Houſe, in the occupation of Col. Stead.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ——Priory, | the ſeat of | F. Cowſlade eſq. |
| Down Place (Bray), | | John Huddleſton eſq. |
| Earley Court (Sunning), - | | Rt. Hon. Sir William Scott, M. P. |
| Engleſield Houſe, | | R. Benyon eſq. M.P. |
| Farley Hill (Swallowfield), - | | R. Stephenſon eſq. |
| Faringdon Houſe, | | Wm. Hallet eſq. |
| Fern Hill (Winkfield), - - | | Francis Knollys eſq. |
| Greenham (Thatcham), - - | | James Croſt eſq. |
| Haines Hill (Hurſt), | | Mrs. Colleton. |
| Ham Houſe (Wantage), - - | | Mrs. Walcot (in the occupation of Mrs. Goodlake.) |
| Hendens (Bray), | | Rev. Dr. Trenchard. |
| Eaſt-Hendred, | | Baſil Eyſton eſq. |
| Heywood (White Waltham), - | | John Sawyer eſq. |
| Hinton - - | | Rev. John Loder. |
| Hodcot - - | | The late J. Head eſq. |
| Holme Park (Sunning), - - | | Richard Palmer eſq. |
| Holly-Grove (Old Windſor), - | | —— Mackay eſq. |
| Hurſt Houſe - | | Mrs. Wowen |
| Inholmes (Lamborn), - - | | — Seymour, a minor. |
| Ives Place (Bray), | | Thos. Wyatt eſq. |
| Kingſton-Bagpuze, | | Adam Blandy eſq. |
| Kingſton-Liſle, | | A. E. M. Atkyns, eſq. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lady Place (Hurley), | the ſeat of | G. A. Kempenfelt eſq. |
| Lockinge, - - | | I. P. Baſtard eſq. M.P. |
| Lovel Hill (Winkfield), - - | | Charles Shard eſq. |
| Luckley Houſe (Wokingham), - | | C. Fyſhe Palmer eſq. |
| Maiden-Earley (Sunning), - - - | | Edw. Golding eſq. |

Maidenhead—villas of Sir Wm. Herne and Sir Iſaac Pocock.

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|---|---|---|
| Marcham, - | the ſeat of | George Elwes eſq. |
| Midgham (Thatcham), - - | | Wm. Poyntz eſq. |
| Milton, - - | | Mr. Barrett. |
| Oakfield Houſe (Stratfield-Mortimer) | | Mrs. Brocas. |

Padworth-Houſe, in the occupation of E. Clarke eſq.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Penel Place (Old Windſor, - - | the ſeat of | James Bonnell eſq. |
| Prior's Court (Cheveley), - - | | Lewis Buckle eſq. (at preſent uninhabited.) |
| Proſpect Hill (Tylehurſt), - - | | I. E. Liebenrood eſq. |
| Purley, - - | | Hon. Mrs. Storer. |
| Purley Hall, - | | Rev. Dr. Wilder. |
| Puſey, - - | | Hon. Philip Puſey. |
| Saint Leonard's Hill (Clewer), - | | General Harcourt. |
| Sandleford, - | | M. Montagu eſq. |
| Selwood Park (Sunning Hill), - | | James Sibbald eſq. |
| Shinfield, - - | | Alex. Cobham eſq. |
| Shotteſbrooke, - | | A. Vanſittart, eſq. |
| Sparſholt, - - | | The late Gen. Gabbit, in the occupation of Mr. Williams. |
| Standen Houſe - | | Thos. Michell eſq. |
| Sulhamſted-Banniſter | | Wm. Thoytts eſq. |
| Sunninghill Park, | | J. Crutchley eſq. |
| Sutton-Courtney Rectory, - - | | Fr. Juſtice eſq. |
| Swallowfield, - | | T. Hare Earle eſq. |
| Temple Hall (Biſham) | | O. Williams eſq. M.P. |
| Tidmarſh, - - | | Robert Hopkins eſq. |
| Wadley, - - | | Wm. Y. Mills eſq. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wallingford, | the late Mr. Juſtice Blackſtone, now the property of his ſon. | |
| Waltham Place, | George Grant eſq. | |
| Wafing, | Wm. Mount eſq. | |
| Welford, | J. A. Houblon eſq. (unoccupied). | |
| Weſt Court (Finchamſted,) | Rev. Ellis St. John | |
| White's Place (Cookham), | G. H. Leyceſter, eſq. | |
| Willows (Bray), | Townley Ward eſq. | |
| Old Windſor Manor houſe, | H. Iſherwood eſq. | |

the ſeat of

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Old Windſor Lodge, | the ſeat of | Wm. Webber eſq. |
| Winkfield Park, | | Thos. Bingley eſq. |
| ——— Place, | | Stanlake Batſon eſq. |
| Weſt-Woodhay, | | belonging to Robert Orby Sloper eſq. at preſent unoccupied. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Woodley (Sunning), | the ſeat of | Mr. James Wheeble. |
| Woodſide Houſe (Old Windſor), | | Rev. Dr. Ogilvie |
| Woolhampton, | | Mrs. Crewe. |
| Woolley Park (Chaddleworth), | | Rev. P. Wroughton. |
| Yattendon, | | I. A. Gallini eſq. |

Fuller, after quoting the liſt of Berkſhire gentry, as returned by the commiſſioners in the twelfth year of Henry VI. adds, "Gardeners complain that ſome kinds of flowers and fruits will not grow proſperouſly, and thrive kindly, in the ſuburbs of London: this they impute to the ſmoke of the city offenſive thereunto. Sure I am, that ancient gentry in this county, ſown thick in former, come up thin in our age."

"Of names which were in days of yore,
Few remain here of a great ſtore."

It is remarkable, that there is not one family deſcended, in the male line, from any of the gentry enumerated in the above-mentioned liſt now left in the county; and it is believed, that Sir H. C. Engleſield is the only perſon ſo deſcended, who poſſeſſes an eſtate in it. Many of the Berkſhire gentry, nevertheleſs, are of ancient families, who have been long ſettled in the counties, from which they have emigrated. The Eyſtons, of Eaſt Hendred, although their name does not occur in the liſt, were ſettled at that place in the reign of Edw. III.; having, by a marriage with the heireſs of De Arches, become poſſeſſed of the manor, which has deſcended, in an uninterrupted male line, to the preſent proprietor. The Clarkes became poſſeſſed of Ardington, their preſent reſidence, in the reign of Henry VII. The Southbys have been ſettled at Appleton about two centuries; and the Seymours, at Inholmes, about the ſame time; the Loders were of Harwell, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards of Balſdon Park, in Kentbury, from whence they removed to Hinton; the Prices were of Farnborough, as early as the middle of the 17th century; the family of Juſtice have been ſettled for ſeveral generations at Sutton-Courtney; the Vanſittarts, for nearly a century, at Shotteſbrooke.

Among

Among the deſerted and dilapidated manſions of the extinct gentry may be reckoned Little Shefford, the ſeat of the Beſils family, and afterwards of the Fettiplaces; Ockholt, the ſeat of the Norris family; Shillingford, the ſeat of the Packers; and Welford, the ſeat of the Archers. Yattendon, another ſeat of the Norris family, has been pulled down, and Beſils-Legh, which was the ſeat of the Fettiplaces, and afterwards of the Lenthalls.

*Geographical and geological Deſcription of Berkſhire.*

THIS county is of a very irregular form: according to Rocque's menſuration, it is 207 miles in circumference: its greateſt length, from Old Windſor to the County Croſs, near Hungerford, 42 miles: its greateſt breadth, from Witham, near Oxford, to the borders of Hampſhire, ſouth of Newbury, 28 miles and an half; and its narroweſt, from the Thames, by Reading, to the borders of Hampſhire, in a direct ſouth line, only ſeven miles. It is bounded on the north by Oxfordſhire and Buckinghamſhire, on the eaſt by Surrey, on the ſouth by Hampſhire, and on the weſt by Wiltſhire; at the north-weſt corner it juſt touches upon Glouceſterſhire. A part of Wiltſhire, detached at a conſiderable diſtance from the reſt of that county, lies in the neighbourhood of Wokingham and Reading, ſurrounded by Berkſhire, including part of the pariſhes of Wokingham, Hurſt, Shinfield, and Swallowfield. Two Berkſhire pariſhes, Langford and Shilton, lie on the north ſide of the Thames, ſurrounded by Oxfordſhire.

The following valuable obſervations on the geology and agriculture of this county, have been obligingly communicated by Dr. Beke:—"By a careful meaſure of Rocque's Map[b] of Berkſhire, corrected as to longitude and latitude, by the trigonometrical ſurvey, and the aſtronomical obſervations which have ſettled the longitude of Oxford, I find that Berkſhire contains about 464,500 acres. The pariſhes of Langford and Shilton are included in this calculation, which lie north of the Thames, and are ſurrounded by Oxfordſhire, and the parts of Wiltſhire are omitted, which lie in and near the precincts of Windſor Foreſt.

"The baſis of the following geological and agricultural diviſion of Berkſhire is Rocque's map, of which the topographical accuracy is very highly and deſervedly eſteemed. Changes have happened ſince his ſurvey was taken, chiefly in conſequence of incloſures; but their effects are accounted for in the following eſtimate, which may be depended upon as not materially erroneous.

[b] Rocque makes the area of Berkſhire ſomewhat too large as to geographical extent; but, on the other hand, he conſiderably under-rates the meaſure of degrees, and conſequently his ſcale of miles is a little too long, and his calculation in acres too low.

| | Acres. |
|---|---|
| " The arable land in Berkſhire amounts to about - - - - | 255,000 |
| The meadows, in different parts, and dairy land in the vale - - | 72,000 |
| Sheep-walks, chiefly unincloſed, on the chalk hills - - - | 25,000 |
| Other dry paſtures, parks, &c. - - - - - - | 25,000 |
| Waſtes, chiefly barren heaths - - - - - - | 30,000 |
| Other ſpace, occupied by buildings, courts, fences, roads, rivers, &c. - | 27,500 |
| Total - - | 434,500 |

" Since the cultivation of any country muſt always depend much on its geology, I ſhall give a ſhort ſketch of the ſuperficial *ſtrata*, which are moſt worthy of obſervation in this county. Cloſe to the Thames, in the northern part of it, there is a narrow but very fertile line of meadow, from which the land riſes, in moſt parts gently, to a line of moderately elevated hills, extending from Oxford to Faringdon. The *ſubſtratum* of this elevated line is generally calcareous ſtone, of various degrees of hardneſs, being part of the ſame *ſtratum*, which, with few interruptions, croſſes the kingdom in a north-eaſtern direction, from the weſt of Dorſetſhire, nearly parallel to the great line of chalk, and a few miles diſtant from it. This line of the county is in general very good, dry corn land, though in ſome parts too ſandy. Gently deſcending from this to the ſouth is the remarkably fertile vale of Berkſhire, which croſſes the county from the pariſh of Shrivenham, on the weſt, to Cholſey, on the eaſtern boundary. At preſent, as when the Domeſday ſurvey was taken, the weſtern part of this vale is employed as paſture land, chiefly dairy, while the ſides and eaſtern part are arable, and may be reckoned ſome of the moſt productive wheat land in the kingdom. The ſoil of this vale, in general, is a ſtrong, grey, calcareous loam, which evidently owes its excellence to the intimate mixture of vegetable mould with cretaceous earth. It is ſuch as may be found at the foot of chalk hills, quite acroſs the kingdom, on the north-weſt ſide; but the fertility differs conſiderably, according to the various proportions of the component parts. Every where, in the whole extent of this narrow vale, from Dorſetſhire to Norfolk, the ſoil is of the ſame general deſcription; though ſome parts, as the Vale of Ayleſbury, and of the White Horſe, are perhaps of rather greater extent, and more remarkable fertility. Next to this vale, on the ſouth, are the chalk hills, which here preſerve their general character, on their north-weſt ſide, riſing, by a very ſteep aſcent, in general bare of wood, and with a fine turf.

" It may be generally remarked of the whole north-weſt part of the great chalk *ſtratum* of this kingdom, that it is leſs indented, more elevated, and more ſteeply terminated

terminated than on the oppoſite ſide, where, in general, it ſinks gently, becoming gradually more and more covered with reddiſh ſoil and gravel, till, in many places, it is entirely loſt. Though the chalk *ſtratum* croſſes quite through the whole county, yet it is only in the weſtern part of it that it is ſo elevated as to be chiefly a ſheep-walk. The Thames, entering the chalk hills at Streatley, croſſes them obliquely, from thence onwards leaving their more elevated part on the north of the river, in Oxfordſhire and Buckinghamſhire; ſo that the eaſtern part of that *ſtratum*, in Berkſhire, is ſufficiently covered to become better adapted to tillage than to ſheep-walk. The ſheep-walks, on the elevated part of the chalk ridge, in Berkſhire, are of very good quality, but not of great extent, when compared with thoſe of Wiltſhire and Dorſetſhire. To the ſouth of them is a vale, which, beginning about the middle of Wiltſhire, continues, almoſt in a ſtraight line, from thence to the eaſtern ſea, having in it the channel of the Kennet, from Hungerford almoſt to Reading, and that of the Thames, from Bray, in Berkſhire, to the ſea.

"The land deſcends gently, in general, from the chalk hills to the middle of this vale, on the north, and is uſually a reddiſh earth, more or leſs mingled with chalk or flints; good arable land, and not badly wooded. The lower part of the vale is gravelly, but with ſome very fertile corn land, a deep loam, eaſily cultivated. The whole courſe of the river Kennet is through a bed of peat, from Hungerford to Reading. In that town it paſſes between two hills; and it ſeems, that anciently the channel between them could not have been ſufficiently depreſſed to prevent the river from forming a moraſs, in its whole extent, for about 25 miles above this obſtruction. South of the Kennet, not far from Hungerford, there begins a tract of poor gravel and clay; at firſt, for many miles, very narrow, but becoming of conſiderable width in the eaſtern part of the county, and continuing, with few interruptions, quite to Blackheath, in Kent, being every where very ferruginous, and in many parts exceedingly barren. The ſouthern boundary of the county every where paſſes through this line of coarſe land, of which the greater part is uncultivated, and produces little but heath.

"In conſequence of the great extent of barren heath, on the ſouthern border of this county, in its eaſtern parts, and of the ſheep-walks on the chalk hills, the quantity of cultivated land does not exceed the general average of the kingdom. With reſpect to what remains in a ſtate of nature, its quality is rather the cauſe why it remains unimproved, than any want of enterprize in the proprietors. The ſheep-walks on the chalk hills can ſcarcely be made more valuable than in their preſent ſtate, either to the proprietors, or the public; though the tenant, who has only a temporary

temporary intereſt, might derive great profit, for a few years, by ploughing them. The heaths in the foreſt muſt depend, for improvement, on the comparative value of money, and of the produce of agriculture; and it cannot be expected in any great extent, unleſs the value of that produce will evidently afford a rent to the improver, which ſhall be a full indemnification for his expences."

Dr. Beke remarks, that the cultivation of Berkſhire, at the time of the Domeſday ſurvey, was very conſiderable, particularly in all the parts weſt of Reading, as appears, not only from the number of carucates, which, being about 2125, will, according to the generally ſuppoſed quantity of a carucate, give about 160,000 acres, two-thirds of the preſent quantity of arable land, but from the great number and high annual value of the mills. "The ancient toll for grinding being about a ſixteenth of the clear average rent of the mills, amounted to about a twenty-fifth part of the whole annual landed value." It is to be remarked, alſo, that ſome large and fertile pariſhes, as Tylehurſt, Tidmarſh, and Beenham, are omitted in the ſurvey, and ſeveral ſhares of mills are mentioned, the remaining parts of which are unnoticed.

Under this head little occurs in addition to the profeſſor's obſervations: it is worthy of remark, perhaps, that of the 438,977 acres, at which Mr. Rocque eſtimates the total extent of this county, two pariſhes alone, Lamborn and Thatcham, contain 25,342 acres, Winkfield about 9000, and twelve other pariſhes upwards of 7000 each. There are ſome extenſive waſte lands in the eaſtern part of the county, as Maidenhead thicket, and ſeveral parts of Windſor foreſt, and its neighbourhood. This celebrated foreſt was formerly of much greater circuit than it is at preſent, extending itſelf into Buckinghamſhire and Surrey[c], and over the whole of the ſouth-eaſtern part of Berkſhire, as far as Hungerford. The vale of the Kennet was diſforeſted by charter in 1226[d]. Norden's map of the foreſt[e], taken in the year 1607, makes its circuit 77 miles and a half, excluſively of the liberties which extended into Buckinghamſhire, the true limits of which he could not aſcertain. It was then divided into 17 walks, including Fiennes Bailiwick, within which were ſituated the pariſhes of Remenham, Hurley, Wargrave, Bray, the two Walthams, Shotteſbrooke, Hurſt, Ruſcomb, and Binfield. The circuit of the foreſt, as deſcribed in Rocque's map, appears to be about 56 miles, including

[c] The foreſt, on the Surrey ſide of the Thames, included Cobham and Chertſey; and, following the courſe of the river Wey, extended up to the town of Guildford, as appears by a ſurvey, taken at the laſt court of Swannimote, about the middle of the 17th century, now in the poſſeſſion of T. B. Richards eſq. [d] Cart. 11 Hen. III. [e] In the Britiſh Muſeum.

the

the whole parishes of Arborfield, Barkham, Binfield, East-Hampsted, Finchhampsted, Sandhurst, Sunninghill, Warfield, Winkfield, New and Old Windsor, together with part of the parishes of Bray, Clewer, Hurst, Wokingham, Swallowfield, and White Waltham. A great part of Bagshot heath is within the forest; the greater part of most of the parishes within its limits is in culture. Windsor great park has been reduced by his present Majesty, from 3800 to 1800 acres, 2000 acres having been brought into cultivation[f].

The south and east sides of the county have a large proportion of woodland. The predominant wood of the county is hazel, occasionally mixed with oak, beech, ash, and alder. The chief quantity of timber is at the eastern extremity of the county, in and about Windsor Forest, in the vale of the Kennet, and by the banks of the Thames, where are some entire woods of beech. It is in this part of the county that we must look for picturesque and pleasing scenery, particularly in Windsor Forest, the road from Reading to Wallingford, and the banks of the Thames between Henley and Maidenhead. From the high ground between Basilden and Ashampstead, there is a very rich prospect over the vale of Kennet, towards Hampshire; from the downs, about Letcombe Castle, a very extensive view over the vale of White Horse, towards Oxfordshire. The high grounds between Henley and Maidenhead afford some very beautiful views of the Thames, and the well-wooded banks on the Buckinghamshire side of the river. The prospect from Windsor Castle is well known, and justly admired for its richness and extent, as well as for the many interesting objects which it embraces.

## Natural History.

*Fossils.*—This county does not produce any valuable minerals, nor any great variety of extraneous fossils. There is a *stratum* of sand about two feet thick, in a field called Catsgrove, near Reading, in which are great quantities of large oyster shells, lying immediately beneath a *stratum* of fuller's earth. Woodward observes that the same *stratum* of sand, with oyster shells, is to be found, at various depths from 15 to 25 feet, for two miles on every side of Reading[g]. The same author also mentions *Echini* of several kinds, and a shark's tooth, as found at Catsgrove[h]. Fossil shells of various kinds, and other marine productions, are to be

[f] Pearce's Agricultural Survey. [g] Catal. vol. 2. p. 41. a. 22. [h] Catal. vol. 2. p. 50. d. 27. and d. 32. p. 52. c. 10.

seen

ſeen in great abundance, bedded in the *ſtratum* of lime ſtone, which at ſome diſtance follows the courſe of the chalk hills, eſpecially in the neighbourhood of Faringdon. Woodward mentions *anomiæ*, ſhark's teeth, and parts of fiſhes, found at Faringdon[j]; and *aſtroitæ*, &c. found at Abingdon. *Echini*, and other extraneous foſſils, have alſo been found near Wokingham. Woodward mentions the thigh bone of an ox, dug up in a gravel pit in Windſor Park[k]; and moſs-earth, and branches of birch trees, in the marſhes of Windſor Foreſt[l]. Peat is found in the vale of the Kennet, on both ſides of the river, for ſeveral miles above and below the town of Newbury. The *ſtratum* of peat lies at various depths below the ſurface of the ground, and varies in thickneſs from one to 8 or 9 feet; gravel is uſually found underneath it[m]. The peat is ſold for 14s. per load, and the aſhes for three pence halfpenny per buſhel, to the farmers, to whom they afford an excellent manure; horns, heads, and bones of various animals, have been found in the peat.

It will here be proper to mention thoſe remarkable ſtones of a fine ſiliceous grit, called by the country people *Sarſden* ſtones, or the *grey weathers*, which are ſcattered over the Berkſhire and Wiltſhire downs; they appear to have been removed by ſome violent concuſſion of the earth, as they evidently lie on ſtrata to which they do not naturally belong. The greateſt number of them are to be ſeen in a valley near Aſhdown Park, on a ſtratum of chalk; others on a bed of clay, in the pariſh of Compton-Beauchamp[n]. They are frequently blaſted with gunpowder, and uſed for pitching, &c. but are too hard to be worked.

*Rare Plants.*—This county does not produce many rare plants. The laſt edition of Camden gives a ſhort liſt, but none of them are very rare: among thoſe which occur the leaſt frequently are, the *Salix rubra*, the *Myrica Gale*, and the *Monotropa hypopythys*. Dr. Abbot has lately communicated to the editor of the Engliſh Botany, the *Aſarum Europæum* found by himſelf in the beech-woods between Henley and Maidenhead. The *Iberis Amara* is to be found growing abundantly as a weed in the corn fields near Wallingford. The *Antirrhinum monſpeſſulanum*, or, as it is called by Dr. Smith in the Engliſh Botany, *Antirrhinum repens*, a plant of rare occurrence, grows abundantly on the chalky banks of Henley hill,

[j] Catal. vol. 1. part 2. p. 45. f. 200. f. 206. ibid. p. 84. n. 76. p. 85. n. 95. and n. 99.
[k] Ibid. p. 87. o. 5. [l] Ibid. part 2. p. 17.
[m] Phil. Tranſ. vol. 4. p. 109. 115. Collections towards a parochial hiſtory of Berkſhire in Bibl. Top. Brit. p. 34. [n] See ſome obſervations on theſe ſtones by the Hon. Daines Barrington. Archæologia, vol. 8. p. 442.

which

which lies in the parish of Remenham, in Berkshire. Dr. Beke has found the *Lycopodium selago*, and the *Lycopodium inundatum*, in a bog on Ufton Common, the *Lycoperdon fornicatum*, at Sulhamsted, the *Gentiana Pneumonanthe*, on Sulhamsted Common, and the *Astragulus glycyphyllus*, near Twyford turnpike. The *Galanthus nivalis* grows very plentifully in a wild state in Ufton woods, and the *Euphorbia Lathyris* is naturalized on several stony banks in the same neighbourhood.

*Mineral Springs.*—The only mineral springs of any note in this county, are those at Cumner and Sunninghill, the first a mild cathartic, the other a very weak chalybeate. That of Cumner was formerly in some repute, but has been long disused. There is a strong chalybeate spring called Gorrick-well, near Luckley House, in the parish of Wokingham, and some springs near Windsor, of the nature of the Epsom waters[o].

*Rivers.*

The principal rivers of Berkshire are the Thames, the Kennet, the Loddon, the Ock, the Lambourn, and the Auborn.

The Thames, the chief of British rivers, forms the boundary of this county, during a course of more than one hundred miles, separating it from the counties of Oxford and Buckingham, and, on its Berkshire side, passing by the towns of Abingdon, Wallingford, Reading, Maidenhead, and Windsor, and the villages of Buscot, Eaton-Hastings, Witham, Sutton-Courtney, Streatley, Pangbourn, Purley, Sunning, Wargrave, Remenham, Hurley, Bisham, Cookham, Bray, Clewer, and Old Windsor. It is navigable as high as St. John's bridge near Lechlade, where it first becomes a boundary to this county. The bridges over it, as far as its course is connected with Berkshire, are Radcot, an ancient bridge of three arches on the road from Faringdon to Burford; Tadpole bridge, on the road from Buckland to Bampton; New bridge[p], on the road from Abingdon to Whitney; Ensham bridge, of six arches, built about the year 1777 by the late Earl of Abingdon, on the road from Oxford to Gloucester; the bridge leading from Oxford towards Abingdon[q]; Burford and Culham bridges, at and

[o] Mr. Brokesby, in his letter on the antiquities and natural history of England, printed in the sixth vol. of Leland's Itinerary, (p. 100,) mentions a spring of this nature at Foli-john, in the parish of Winkfield.

[p] This bridge, notwithstanding its appellation, is a very ancient structure. It has six arches. Two annual fairs are held at it; March 31 and September 28.

[q] Godstow bridge, and the bridges over the several streams of the Thames in the approach to Oxford, are all in Oxfordshire.

near Abingdon, on the road from London to Cirenceſter; Shillingford bridge, on the road from Oxford to Wallingford; Wallingford bridge; the wooden bridge between Pangbourn and Whitchurch, built by act of Parliament in 1792; Caverſham bridge, near Reading; Sunning bridge; Henley bridge, formerly of wood, rebuilt with ſtone[r] in 1787, after a deſign of Mr. Hayward; a wooden bridge at Great Marlow, built in 1789; Maidenhead bridge, formerly of wood, rebuilt with ſtone in 1780, after a deſign of Sir Robert Taylor; a wooden bridge which connects Windſor and Eton, and Datchet bridge.

An act of parliament paſſed in the 21ſt year of King James the Firſt for making the Thames navigable from Oxford to Bercot, in Berkſhire. Under this act certain commiſſioners of ſewers claim juriſdiction for that diſtrict; the commiſſioners of the Thames claim juriſdiction through the whole courſe of the river from London to Lechlade. Although from time to time ſome of the moſt material defects have been occaſionally remedied, yet nothing effectual was done towards the improvement of the navigation until after the year 1793, when a committee was appointed by the Houſe of Commons to inquire into the ſtate of the Thames navigation. Mr. Loveden of Buſcot Park, who has for many years been a zealous advocate for the improvement of the navigation, was chairman of this committee. In 1795, an act of Parliament paſſed to explain and amend two former acts of 1771 and 1775, and to give new powers for improving the navigation of the Thames. Since the paſſing of this act the navigation has been materially improved, particularly by the removal of ſhoals and the building of ſome new locks; but much remains to be done, the navigation being ſtill tedious and uncertain, particularly for large veſſels. In 1784 a canal was projected from Lechlade to Abingdon, which was to have paſſed near Buſcot, Eaton-Haſtings, Faringdon, Hinton, Longworth, Fyfield, and Marcham; but it was ſucceſsfully oppoſed in the Houſe of Commons, by perſons who were intereſted in other canals. Some years afterwards it was propoſed to make a canal from Harts ferry, near New bridge, to Abingdon: but this alſo was unſucceſsful. In 1794, a canal was propoſed to be made from Iſleworth in Middleſex to Datchet in Buckinghamſhire, paſſing through Horton. The bill for this canal paſſed the Houſe of Commons, but was rejected by the Lords. It is now in contemplation to make ſome cuts between Oxford and Lechlade, for the purpoſe of very materially ſhortening the diſtance, and avoiding ſome inconveniences in the navigation. One of the moſt important of theſe cuts is that intended to be made from Tadpole bridge to Chimley, which, paſſing through Oxfordſhire, will ſave a diſtance

[r] The key-ſtones of this bridge are ornamented with maſks of the Tame and Iſis, carved in ſtone by the Hon. Mrs. Damer.

of

of nearly four miles. Another is that from Botley to the upper end of Cumner meadow through Berkſhire, which will ſave a diſtance of more than ſeven miles and a half out of eleven.

The Thames in its courſe through Berkſhire, produces barbel, pike, trout, and various other common fiſh, beſides carp and tench, ſuppoſed to be brought thither by floods. There are numerous fiſhing weirs on the river, which are eſteemed very injurious to the navigation. It has been frequently propoſed that an application ſhould be made to Parliament for power to purchaſe them.

The river Kennet having divided this county from Wiltſhire for about two miles, enters it at Hungerford, thence it paſſes by Avington and Kentbury (to which it gives name) and between Hampſted-Marſhal and Spene to Newbury, near which town it is joined by the Lambourn. At Newbury it becomes navigable[*], and paſſes thence through a rich vale, leaving the villages and hamlets of Thatcham, Woolhampton, Beenham, Engleſield, Theale, and Tylehurſt, on the North; and Brimpton, Waſing, Aldermaſton[†], Padworth, Uſton and the Sulhamſteds on the South, till it reaches Reading, between which town and the neighbouring village of Sunning it falls into the Thames, its courſe through this county having been nearly 30 miles.

The Kennet produces a great variety of fiſh, among which are trout, pike, barbel, perch, eels, cray-fiſh, chub, roach, and dace; there are no barbel weſt of Newbury; the trout of this river have long been celebrated for their ſize and flavour; Fuller ſpeaks of them in his Worthies. The editor of the Magna Britannia mentions the trout of the Kennet as being of a prodigious ſize, and ſpeaks of one 45 inches in length, taken at Newbury. A gentleman of that town (Mr. Toomer) had in his poſſeſſion, not many years ago, three trouts which weighed 15lb. each, two of them had been fattened in his ſtew, the other was of that weight when taken out of the river. At another time he had a trout in his ſtew, which grew till it attained the weight of 17lb. it was given by him to the late Lord Craven, who ſent it as a preſent to her Majeſty.

The river Loddon, the ſubject of Pope's fable of Lodona, riſes near Alderſhot in Hampſhire. At Blackwater it begins to be a boundary between that county and Berkſhire, and ſo continues for about eight miles, paſſing between Sandhurſt and Yately. It enters Berkſhire in the pariſh of Swallowfield, and paſſing by that village and between Shinfield and Arborfield, croſſes the Wokingham and Reading road at Loddon bridge, the Bath road at Twyford, and falls into the Thames

[*] It was made navigable from Newbury to Reading by an act of Parliament which paſſed in 1715.

[†] Near this village it is joined by the Aubourn.

near Wargrave; its courſe after it has entered this county being about 12 miles. A brook called the Emme riſes near Bagſhot rails, and paſſing Wokingham falls into the Loddon at Sandford mill.

The river Ock riſes from two or three ſprings near Uffington; it paſſes near Stanford, Charney-Baſſet, Lyford, and Garford. In Hanney mead it is joined by a brook, which riſing near Letcombe-Baſſet runs by Letcombe-Regis, Wantage, and Hanney; it then paſſes between Marcham and Drayton, and falls into the Thames at Abingdon, the whole of its courſe being about 20 miles. The fiſh of the Ock are pike, perch, gudgeon, roach, dace, and cray-fiſh. The pike are eſteemed remarkably fine.

The Aubourn riſes in Berkſhire, near Inkpen, but ſoon becomes a boundary between this county and Hampſhire, paſſing through Newtown, a few houſes of which are on the Berkſhire ſide: it continues its courſe eaſtward till it has paſſed a place called Hide End; when bending northward it again enters the county, runs in an oblique direction between Brimpton and Waſing, and falls into the Kennet a little below the laſt mentioned village. Its courſe, from the fartheſt ſpring on Inkpen common, to its junction with the Kennet, is about 17 miles.

The Lambourn riſes amongſt the hills above the town of the ſame name, and running by the road ſide paſſes through Bockington, Eaſtbury, Eaſt-Garſton, the two Sheffords, Weſton, Welford, Eaſton, Weſtbrook, Boxford, Bagnor, Donnington, and Shaw; near the laſt mentioned place it falls into the Kennet, its courſe being about 16 miles. Moſt writers who have treated of the topography of this county relate that this river is always full in the ſummer, and its ſtream entirely loſt in the winter. The ſame ſtory is told in a poem by Joſhua Sylveſter, the tranſlator of Dubartas. By the teſtimony of perſons of veracity and obſervation, reſiding in the neighbourhood, it appears that little credit is to be given to this tale, but that the truth is, that the river preſerves, during the whole year, a pretty equal degree of fulneſs, being ſeldom affected by the drought of ſummer, or ſubject to inundations in the winter. During the remarkable drought of the ſummer of 1803, its ſource was completely dried up for ſome months. The Lambourn abounds with the ſame fiſh as the Kennet, but the trout are of a paler colour, and not ſo much eſteemed.

A ſtream which riſes at Ginge, runs through Eaſt Hendred, Steventon, and Milton, and falls into the Thames at Sutton-Courtney.

*Navigable Canals.*

The Wilts and Berks canal, which was undertaken in 1793, under the direction of Mr. Whitworth, is intended to enter Berkſhire at Hackſon bridge, near Shrivenham,

ham, to paſs by Shrivenham and Uffington, to leave Sparſholt and Childrey on the ſouth, to paſs by the Challows, and near Wantage, to which there is to be a collateral cut, and between Hanney and Drayton to Abingdon. This canal is finiſhed, excepting that part which is to paſs through Berkſhire. The digging has lately been contracted for, as far as Longcot, a hamlet of Shrivenham. The Kennet and Avon canal, for the making of which an act of parliament paſſed in 1794, enters Berkſhire at Hungerford, and paſſes parallel with the river Kennet to Newbury: the Berkſhire part of this canal is completed.

*Roads.*

THE great Bath road enters this county at Maidenhead Bridge, and paſſes over Maidenhead Thicket, through Twyford, to Reading, from whence it accompanies, at a ſmall diſtance, the courſe of the Kennet to Hungerford, where it quits the county at about the 65th mile ſtone. The road from London to Oxford enters the county alſo at Maidenhead Bridge, and having paſſed by Hurley, quits it at Henley Bridge. The Cirenceſter road, which branches off at Dorcheſter, enters Berkſhire again at Abingdon; and, paſſing through Fyfield, Kingſton-Bagpuze, Faringdon, and Buſcot, finally quits the county at St. John's bridge, near Lechlade. The road from Faringdon to Oxford quits the London road near Fyfield, and paſſes through Tubney wood and Beſils-Legh; leaving Cumner on the left, it enters Oxfordſhire at Botley.

There are three other roads from London to Reading, beſides that through Maidenhead already mentioned, all of which paſs, for a conſiderable diſtance, through this county. One enters it at Windſor Great Park, and goes through Winkfield and Binfield: another, called the Foreſt Road, lately made, paſſes through the ſame villages by a different courſe from Windſor town: the third enters this county near the Virginia Water, on Bagſhot Heath, paſſing through Sunninghill, Bracknell, and Wokingham, over Loddon Bridge.

The road from London to Wantage enters this county at Wallingford, and paſſes through Brightwell and Harwell. A turnpike road is continued from Wantage, through Eaſt Challow and Stanford in the Vale, to Faringdon.

The road from Oxford to Wincheſter enters this county within the ſuburbs of Oxford. It paſſes through Abingdon, Drayton, Steventon, Eaſt Ilſley, Beedon, and Newbury, about three miles beyond which town it enters Hampſhire. The road to Hungerford quits the laſt-mentioned road two miles beyond Steventon, and paſſes through Wantage and Weſt Shefford.

The road from Oxford to Chicheſter enters this county at Shillingford Bridge, and paſſes through Wallingford, Moulsford, Streatley, Baſilden, Pangbourn, and Aldermaſton:

Aldermaſton: a little beyond the laſt-mentioned village it quits the county. From Pangbourn a turnpike road continues through Purley to Reading.

The road from Reading to Baſingſtoke paſſes through Swallowfield, and quits the county at the entrance of Heckfield Heath.

A turnpike road, from Lambourn to Newbury, paſſes by the ſide of the Lambourn ſtream through Eaſt Garſton: the two Sheffords, Welford, Boxford, and Donnington.

Moſt of the turnpike roads in Berkſhire are very good: the ſame may be ſaid of the private roads in the ſouth eaſtern part of the county, particularly in the neighbourhood of Reading; in the Vale of White Horſe, they are very deep and miry, and in the winter ſeaſon almoſt impaſſable.

## *Manufactures.*

BERKSHIRE was formerly one of the principal ſeats of the clothing manufacture, which flouriſhed particularly in the towns of Abingdon, Reading, and Newbury; and, it is probable, extended itſelf to other neighbouring towns and villages. Some ancient records ſpeak of fulling-mills at Eaſt Hendred, which was formerly a market town. This manufacture continued to be carried on to a conſiderable extent, in Fuller's time (the middle of the 17th century); but it ſoon afterwards declined, and has for ſeveral years been wholly diſcontinued. There are ſome cotton manufactories near Newbury, and a large paper-mill: another paper-mill at Bagnor, in the neighbourhood, and a large blanket manufactory at Greenham Mills, near Thatcham. Sacking, and coarſe weather-proof coats, are made at Abingdon and Wantage. The ſilk manufacture is carried on at Wokingham, to a ſmall extent.

In the pariſh of Biſham are ſome very ancient mills, called Temple Mills, as having belonged formerly to the Knights Templars. In the early part of the laſt century, being employed for making braſs and copper pans and kettles, they were known by the name of Biſham Abbey Battery Works. The proprietors having been engaged in the unfortunate ſpeculations of the South Sea year, the loſs occaſioned by working the Temple Mills is noticed in ſome of the journals [y], among the bubbles of that memorable period. In 1748, Temple Mills continued to be employed for making braſs and copper pans and kettles; and there were two other mills, one for making thimbles, and the other for preſſing oil from rape and flax ſeed, both ſaid to have been attended with great advantage to the proprietors [z]. In 1759, the mills were worked for braſs and copper only, by their proprietor,

[y] See Miſt's Journal, Nov. 26, 1720. vol. II. p. 71.

[z] Tour through Great Britain, vol. IV. 8vo. 1748.

William

William Ockenden esq. one of the members for the borough of Marlow. Temple Mills are now the property of Owen Williams esq. who succeeded his late father in the representation of the borough of Marlow. The late Mr. Williams purchased the mills in 1788, of George Pengree esq. whose uncle was the immediate successor of Mr. Ockenden. The manufactures now carried on at these mills, which are esteemed some of the most complete and powerful of the kind in the kingdom, are confined to the rolling of copper sheets, for various purposes, the rolling of copper bolts for the navy, and other shipping, and hammering out copper pans and bottoms for distilleries, &c. There was also a mill for drawing brass wire; but it has not been worked for the last eight or nine years.

Upon the whole, Berkshire cannot be considered as a manufacturing county, as may be clearly seen by the proportionate number of persons employed in agriculture, and those employed in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, according to the returns made to Parliament under the Population Act, in 1801; the former being 38,155, the latter only 16,921.

## Antiquities.

*Roman Remains.*—Traces of Roman buildings have been found in the parish of White Waltham, in Weycock field [y] in the parish of Lawrence Waltham [z], and at a place called Wickham Bushes, near Cæsar's Camp, on Bagshot Heath. Roman bricks, &c. are also said to have been found at Old Windsor. Great quantities of Roman pottery were discovered in 1783, at a farm called the Roundabout, near Bagshot Park, and also at Wickham Bushes before mentioned [a]. A large urn, probably Roman, was found in Spene-moor, about one mile and a half west of Newbury, under a *tumulus* of earth, eight feet high [b]. Roman coins and urns have been found at Lawrence-Waltham, St. Leonard's Hill, near Windsor [c], at Wallingford, on Bagshot Heath, and at Wantage. Leland says, that they were found within the camp on Sinodun Hill, but none have been seen there of late years. Stukeley mentions a Roman altar, dedicated to Jupiter, dug up in 1730, at Frilsham, near Spene. It has been said that there are two Roman mile stones between Streatley and Aldworth [d]. We were not able, on inquiry in the neighbourhood, to learn where they are situated.

[y] Lel. Itin. vol. I. pref. p. ix. [z] Lel. Itin. vol. I. p. 122. [a] Archæol. vol. VII. p. 200. 203. [b] Phil. Tranf. vol. L. p. 109. 115. [c] A bronze lamp, presented by Sir Hans Sloane to the Society of Antiquaries, and other antiquities, were dug up here in the beginning of the last century, but it is not certain that any of them were Roman. [d] Berkshire Queries, in vol. IV. of Bibl. Top. Brit.

*Roman*

*Roman Roads and Stations* [c].—" Berkſhire is traverſed by ancient roads, or rather pieces of ancient roads, in many different directions, but there is no county in which there is more difficulty to reconcile them to any general theory, or to fix, with preciſion, the points to which they tend; and whether it is a cauſe or a conſequence of this uncertainty, out of no leſs than three undoubted Roman towns within the preſent limits of Berkſhire, the ſite of one only (Spene) has been aſcertained, and that not without ſome difficulty: the name of another *(Bibracte)* is known, but antiquaries do not agree in its poſition; and though we are enabled by the remains of the third to fix its ſituation with much probability, its name is utterly loſt.

" The moſt marked Roman road that goes through any part of Berkſhire, is the great road from *Glevum* (Glouceſter) to London; nothing can be more decided than this road from Cirenceſter by Cricklade, *Stratton*, and Wanborough, to its entrance into this county, or more ſtriking than its elevated creſt, raiſed many feet above the downs, in various parts of its courſe: from Baydon it enters Berkſhire, leaving Lambourn and the Sheffords on its left, and Innholmes and Newtown on its right, croſſes the turnpike road from Oxford to Hungerford, between the 25th and 26th mile ſtones, and continues ſtraight, without paſſing through any village, till it arrives at Wickham; one ſolitary ale-houſe, however, known by the name of the Hare and Hounds, ſtands directly upon it, being a half-way houſe for the drovers between Spene and Baydon: from Wickham it goes over Wickham Heath, and falls into the modern high road from Bath to London, near the 58th mile ſtone, in leſs than a mile after which it muſt have reached the ſtation of *Spinæ*, or Spene.

" No antiquities have been diſcovered to fix the exact ſite of this town; but the name and diſtance are ſufficient to convince us, that it muſt have been within the pariſh of Spene; and the neighbouring town of Newbury has probably riſen from its ruins: indeed an argument may be brought from the Itineraries, which will reduce this point almoſt to a demonſtration; becauſe the two Roman roads, travelled in the 13th of Antonine and 12th of Richard, one from *Durocornovium*, and the other from *Aquæ Solis*, appear to have met at *Spinæ*, which is confirmed by the courſe of parts of theſe roads, viſible at the preſent hour; but it is impoſſible for two roads going to London, one from Cirenceſter, and the other from Bath, to have met at any other place than in the pariſh of Spene, according to the diſtances aſſigned in the Itineraries.

" So far we have proceeded with ſome degree of certainty; but the courſe of the Roman road from *Spinæ* to London has never yet been aſcertained: there are two lines it may have taken; the firſt towards Silcheſter, to which it ſeems to point when laſt ſeen, and where it would join the great weſtern Roman road from Old Sarum to London; or it may have continued eaſterly more in the courſe of the

[c] Communicated by the Biſhop of Cloyne. See note, p. 25.

preſent

preſent Bath road to Lawrence-Waltham, and croſſed the Thames at Bray, which many writers ſuppoſe to have been *Bibracte*. I am rather inclined to prefer the former courſe; and to the objection, that the itinerary diſtance from *Spinæ* to *Calleva* (if Silcheſter be *Calleva*) is more than the real diſtance, it may be anſwered, that the Roman road might have proceeded ſome miles in the line of the preſent turnpike road, till it met the road from Silcheſter to Streatley, or Wallingford, which falls into it near the village of Thatcham, and this little detour would give the number of miles wanted.

"The Roman road from Silcheſter to London, above-mentioned, paſſed in all probability through the ſouth-eaſtern borders of this county, by Park Lane, *Stanford*, and Finchampſtead. Traces of it appear for ſome miles on Bagſhot heath, not far from Wickham Buſhes, where it is called the Devil's Cauſeway, being raiſed with a trench on each ſide of it, and not leſs than 90 feet wide[d]; it ſeems to bear for Old Windſor or Staines, in a line on the other ſide of which, on Hounſlow heath, it was plainly diſcovered by General Roy, at the ſide of our modern weſtern road. It muſt alſo be obſerved, that near the courſe we ſuppoſe this Roman road to have taken, about a quarter of a mile from Bagſhot Park, and at the ſame diſtance from the croſs road leading from Bagſhot to Bracknell, in a farm above Heatly Bottom, called Roundabout, Roman pottery has been found, and part of a Roman camp; the ſame kind of pottery has alſo been found in great abundance near Wickham Buſhes[e]: all which tends to confirm the idea, that the great weſtern road to London, in the time of the Romans, paſſed through or near this part of the county of Berks. By attending carefully to the bearings of the Devil's Cauſeway where it is viſible, more accurate conjectures may be formed of its courſe.

"It is yet uncertain whether traces of any Roman road remain between Silcheſter and Streatley on the Thames[f], between Silcheſter and Wallingford, and between Silcheſter

[d] Gough's Camden, Vol. I. p. 164. This was levelled when the ridings were cut acroſs the heath, and is now called the Devil's Riding. [e] Archæolog. ut ſup.

[f] Dr. Beke, profeſſor of modern hiſtory at Oxford, in a paper read to the Society of Antiquaries, Feb. 9, 1804, ſuppoſes Moulsford on the Thames, to have been the *Thameſis* of the 18th iter of Richard of Cirenceſter; from which place he ſuppoſes the road to have proceeded through Sotwell and Cholſey, and from thence through Streatley, Pangbourn, Engleſield, and Sulhamſted, towards Silcheſter.

The Profeſſor (as well Mr. Reynolds in his Commentary on the *Iter Britanniarum*) ſuppoſes the Roman ſtation of *Calleva* to have been at Coley manor, near Reading; and that the Ikeneld-ſtreet croſſed the Thames at Moulsford, and not at Streatley as is commonly ſuppoſed. Mr. Coates, in his Hiſtory of Reading, p. 462, obſerves upon this conjecture "that there are no traces of a Roman road or vicinal way leading to Reading, nor have any coins or other remains of the Romans been ever diſcovered there."

Silcheſter and Lawrence-Waltham: it is ſaid that there are ſome traces of the latter to be found near Mr. Palmer's houſe in the neighbourhood of Wokingham. There is a great bank ſouth of the Kennet, and another as remarkable north of it; and though the laſt, which is called the Giant's Cauſeway, certainly bears towards the ford of the Ikening-Street, over the Thames at Streatley, yet both of them appear to me to have been rather the boundaries of ſome Britiſh tribe, than parts of any Roman road: and it is by no means impoſſible that the former may be the continuation of Wanſdike, the eaſtern end of which is unknown.

"The *Ikening* or *Ikeneld-Street*, whoſe courſe we have before traced through Bedfordſhire to the borders of this county, enters Berkſhire by a ford over the Thames at Streatley, ſtill preſerving its old character, with no marks of having been paved or raiſed; and here, as in many other places, it divides into two great branches: one of theſe, under the name of the *Ridgway*, continues on the edge of the high ground by Cuckhamſley, Letcombe, and White-horſe hill, into Wiltſhire, and this I conceive to be the proper Ikening-Street; while the other, under the name of the *Wſtridge*, according to Stukeley, goes by Hampſtead Hermitage, and the long lane, towards Newbury and Street to Old Sarum [g].

Dr. Beke mentions part of a Roman road from Silcheſter, paſſing in a right line almoſt due eaſt through Stratfield-Mortimer, Stratfield-Say, and Stratfield-Turgin, falling into the great Weſtern-road near Blackwater; and another on the Berkſhire hills called the Old-ſtreet way, which may be traced from Wantage to Thatcham, from whence it was probably continued to Silcheſter. He alſo mentions "a remarkable foſs, about a mile and a half from Silcheſter on the north-weſt, which begins about a quarter of a mile to the ſouth of Ufton church, and runs ſtraight through the whole of the pariſhes of Ufton, Padworth, and Aldermaſton, excepting where interrupted in two or three places by boggy vallies of very ſmall extent. The common people call it *Grimmer's Dike.*"

[g] Mr. Wiſe has deſcribed the courſe of the Ikeneld-ſtreet, or, as it is called in Berkſhire, the Ickleton-way, as proceeding from Streatley on the Thames to Blewbury, but is uncertain of its courſe from hence to Wantage; "but immediately after it has paſſed Wantage, it goes, as he obſerves, by its true name Ickleton-way, all under the hills (as before, under the Chiltern through Bucks and Oxfordſhire) between them and Childrey, Sparſholt, Uffington, and the Whitehorſe-hill, leaving Woolſton and Compton on the right hand; thence to Aſhbury and Biſhopſton, pointing towards Abury in Wiltſhire." We have been favoured with the following notice of its courſe from Wantage to Streatley by Mr. Church, ſurveyor of Wantage. "The Ickleton-way has been ploughed up acroſs Wantage Eaſtfield till it enters Charlton (a hamlet of Wantage), it then paſſes through Weſt Lockinge. It is loſt acroſs Mr. Baſtard's park in Eaſt Lockinge, but appears again from that park to Ginge brook, in Ardington pariſh. It paſſes by White's barn in Sparſholt-Court manor, and is afterwards ploughed up for ſome way, but appears again, after croſſing the Newbury-way, by Wiltſhire's and Halve-hill barns, in Eaſt Hendred pariſh; from thence through the pariſhes of Harwell, Weſt Hagbourne, and the hamlet of Upton, to the village of Blewbury, and through the pariſhes of Aſton-Tirrold, and Cholſey, to Moulsford on the Thames, and thence to Streatley; from Upton to Streatley, it forms part of the new turnpike road from Wantage to Reading."

"Another

" Another very old, and perhaps a Roman road enters the county on its north weſterly borders from Wiltſhire, under the name of the Port-way, a title common to Roman roads in many parts of the kingdom: it paſſes near Uffington, Wantage, and Hendred, and ſeems to point for ſome ſpot ſouth of Wallingford. If it croſſed the Thames below Wallingford, it may poſſibly join the road leading from Dorcheſter to London. Traces of a road from this north part of Berkſhire are alſo viſible between Wantage and Thatcham, under the name of the Old Street, from whence it probably proceeded towards Silcheſter.

" The only certain *itinerary ſtations* within the limits of Berkſhire, are *Spinæ* and *Bibracte*. With reſpect to the firſt, the reſemblance of the name, the bearing of the different roads, the diſtance and other marks, as I obſerved before, well known to antiquaries, have led all writers to agree on fixing it at or near Spene; but there is greater difference of opinion in determining on the ſite of *Bibracte*. Mr. Whitaker, in p. 43 of the appendix to the firſt vol. of his Hiſtory of Mancheſter, is ſtrenuous for Bray: but Bray muſt be at leaſt 25 miles from London by the neareſt road; and the 12th iter of Richard, from which alone we obtain any notice of this ſtation, places *Bibracte* at the diſtance only of 20; nor can I learn that any traces of a Roman road have been diſcovered either to the W. or E. of the town, or that any coins, or bricks, or other conſiderable marks of a ſtation, have been dug up on the ſuppoſed ſite of it. We cannot therefore decide on this point till after a more accurate examination: at the ſame time, we muſt allow that Bray has as fair a claim as any place in its neighbourhood, (though the diſtance perhaps might better ſuit Old Windſor,) to the honour of having been a Roman ſtation.

" I am not ignorant that a third itinerary ſtation, that of *Pontes* mentioned in the 7th iter of Antonine, has been ſuppoſed by ſome antiquaries to be ſituated in Berkſhire, and that Mr. Horſley in particular, whoſe opinion is always entitled to reſpect, inclines to place it either at Old Windſor or St. Leonard's hill; but as what has been advanced on this ſubject is merely conjectural, and the arguments ſeem in my opinion to be more in favour of Staines, we cannot reckon *Pontes* among the Berkſhire ſtations, its ſite being on the oppoſite bank of the Thames, without ſtronger reaſons than have yet been produced.

" It is an odd circumſtance, that while *Spinæ* and *Bibracte*, which are two acknowledged Roman towns, have no certain remains to identify their ſituations, there ſhould be another town in the ſame county, abounding in Roman remains, of whoſe ancient name we are ignorant: this is Wallingford, which appears to have been of great importance ſo early as in the time of the Conqueror, where the form of the ramparts, not the caſtle which is of later date, is pronounced by many judges to be Roman, and where coins of the Emperors Poſthumus, Gordianus, &c. have been often found. Theſe circumſtances have led all our antiquaries to agree

in fixing a Roman town on its ſite, and ſome have given it the name of *Calleva:* but the 7th iter of Antonine, which ſtates *Calleva* to be 44 miles from London and 22 from Wincheſter, appears deciſive againſt that idea; for Wallingford is at leaſt 46 miles, meaſured from Hyde Park corner, from the firſt of theſe cities, and not leſs than 35 miles from the other; and it is to be obſerved, that the ſum of the miles in this 7th iter agreeing exactly with the particulars, we are not at liberty to alter any of the numbers: Wallingford therefore ſeems to have been a Roman town, the name of which has not come down to us.

"There are two banks and ditches running north and ſouth over Greenham heath, and another in the ſame direction over Mortimer heath, which ſome have ſuppoſed was part of a Roman road towards Streatley or Wallingford."

*Ancient Church Architecture.*—Berkſhire affords many ſpecimens of the Saxon architecture, the moſt remarkable of which is Avington church. This building remains nearly in its original ſtate; it is ſmall and quite plain on the outſide; within the walls it meaſures 75 feet by 14 feet 7 inches. The nave is ſeparated from the chancel by an arch richly ornamented with zig-zag moulding, and a great variety of groteſque heads, ſpringing from two enriched piers, which lean outwards[f]; The arch is remarkable, being formed of the ſegments of two circles having different centres. The chancel appears to have had originally a groined roof of ſtone, the lower part of ſome of the groins remain, which are enriched with roſes. At the eaſt end are three ſmall round-headed windows.

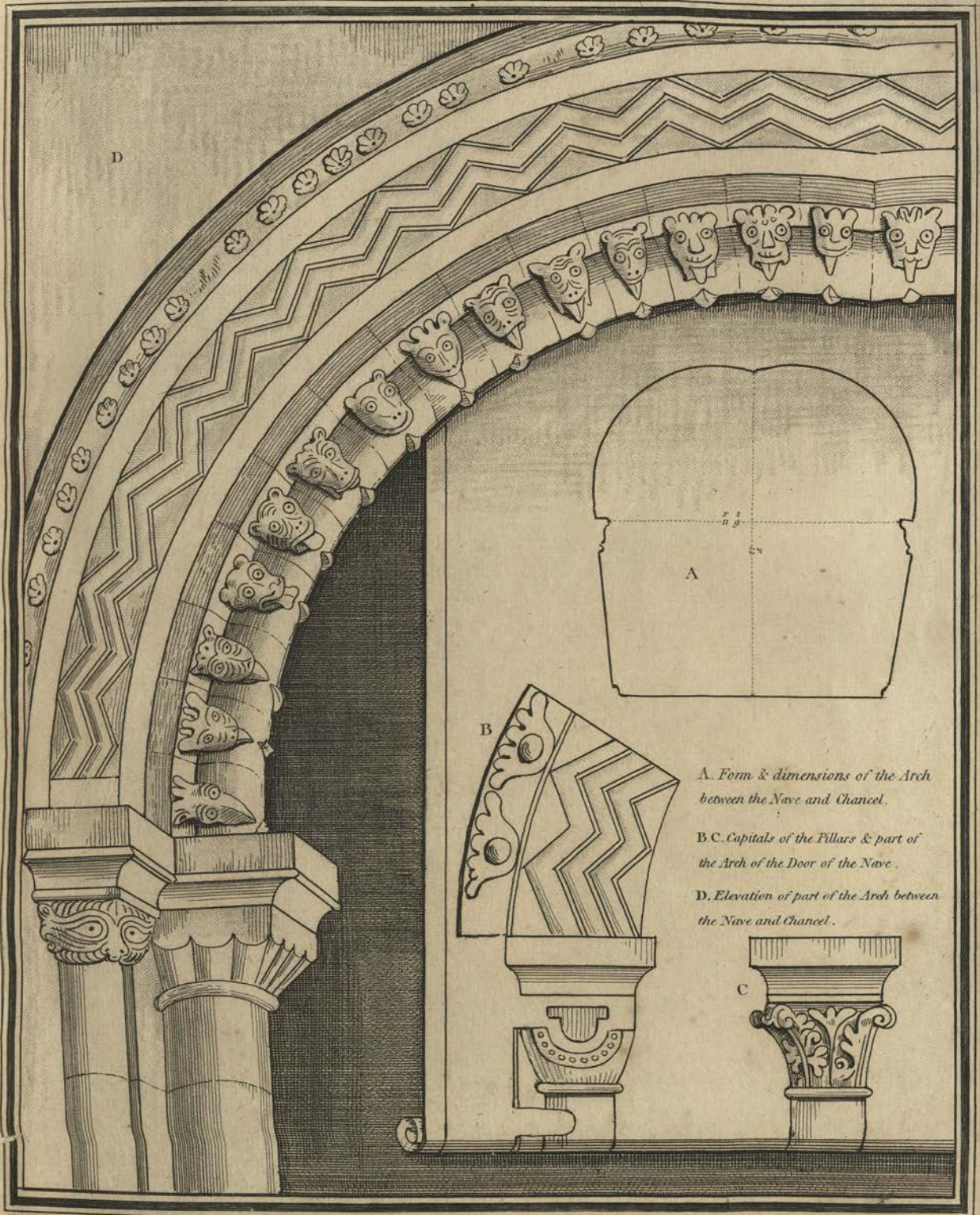
In the churches of St. Nicholas at Abingdon, Aldermaſton, Chaddleworth, Charney[g], Childrey, Cholſey, Hanney, Hatford, North Hinkſey, Hurley, Kentbury, Shalbourn, Shaw, Stanford-Dingley, and St. Leonard at Wallingford, and in the ancient chapel of Little Coxwell, are doors with circular arches, and zig-zag and other Saxon mouldings and ornaments. Sunning-hill church is an ancient Saxon building. On the impoſt moulding of one of the arches of the tower, between the nave and chancel, is an inſcription in very ancient characters (ſee the annexed plate, fig. 2.), which may be read thus: *Undecimo Kalendarum Martii obiit Livingus Preſbiter*[h].

[f] This appears to have been their original poſition, ſince the outſide walls are upright; a ſimilar effect may be obſerved in ſeveral of our ancient Saxon churches.

[g] There is a rude piece of ſculpture in bas-relief on the north wall of this church, which has probably been placed under the arch of a door-way.

[h] There are ſome obſervations on this inſcription in the Archæologia, vol. ii. p. 129, by the late Dean Milles, who obſerves that the ſtyle and ſituation of the inſcription ſhew it to have been rather commemorative than ſepulchral; and that the name of *Livingus* occurs frequently as a Saxon proper name, and the Saxon names being diſuſed after the Conqueſt, makes it probable that this prieſt lived not long after this period.

The




A. *Form & dimensions of the Arch between the Nave and Chancel.*

B.C. *Capitals of the Pillars & part of the Arch of the Door of the Nave.*

D. *Elevation of part of the Arch between the Nave and Chancel.*

ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENTS, IN AVINGTON CHURCH.

1

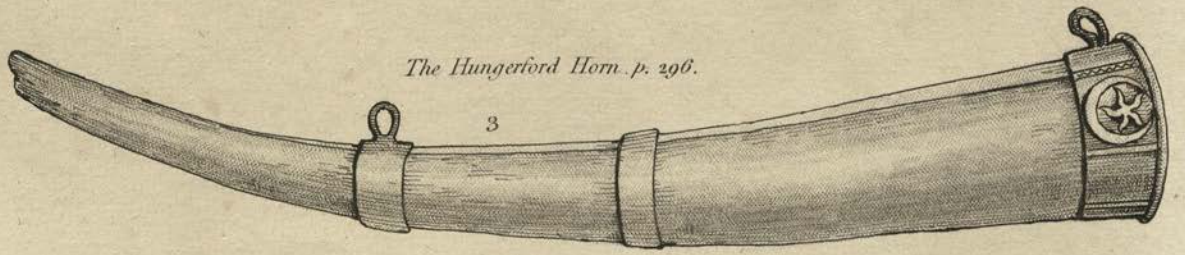
*Inscription in the Chancel of Woolhampton Church.*

2

*Inscription in Sunning hill Church.*

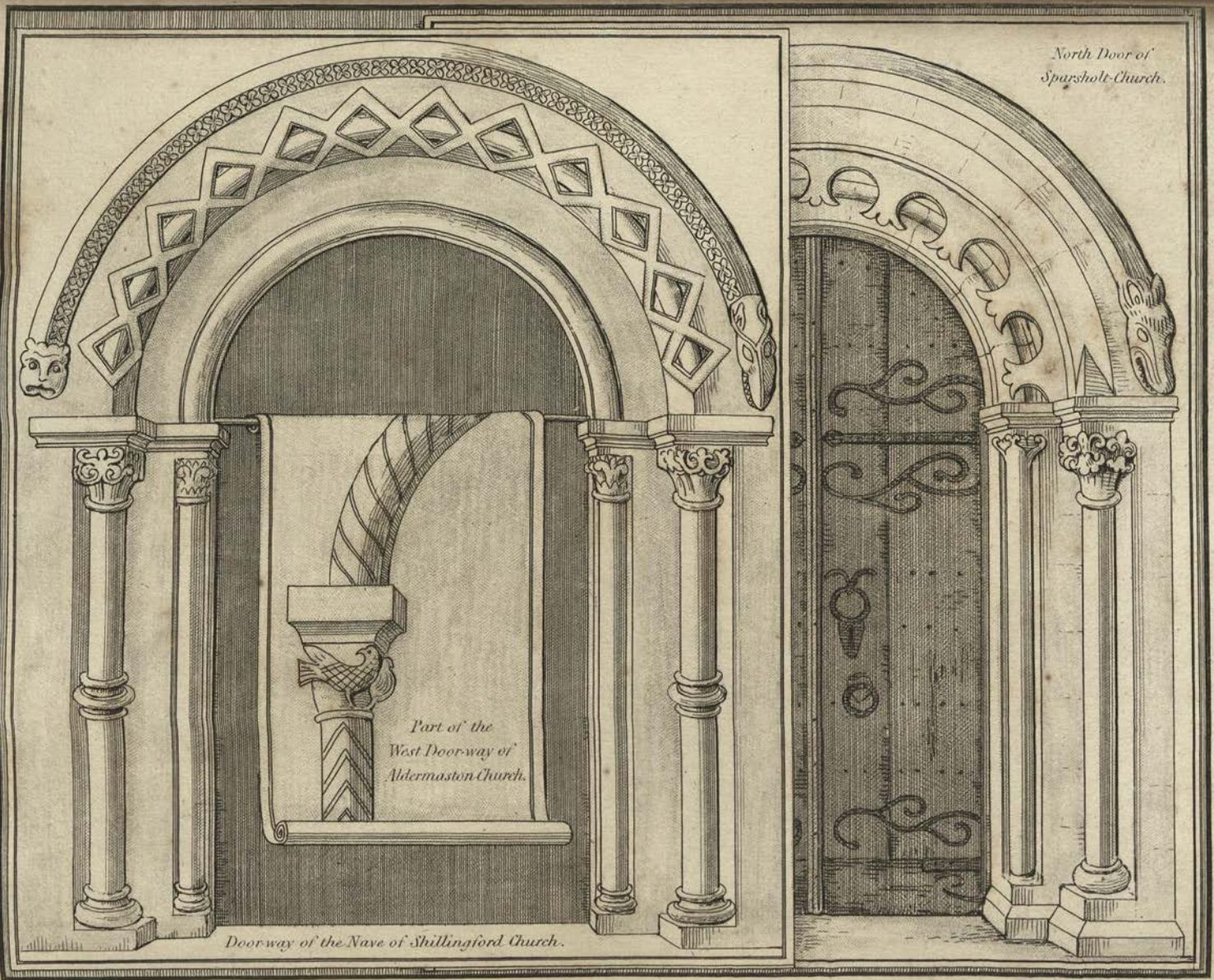
*The Hungerford Horn. p. 296.*

3

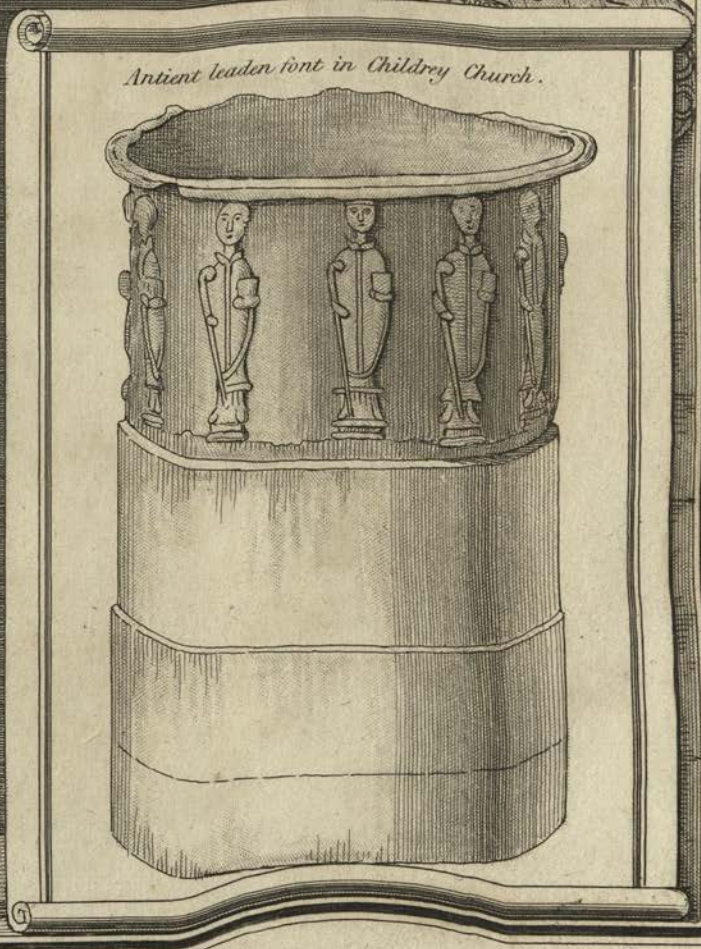


4

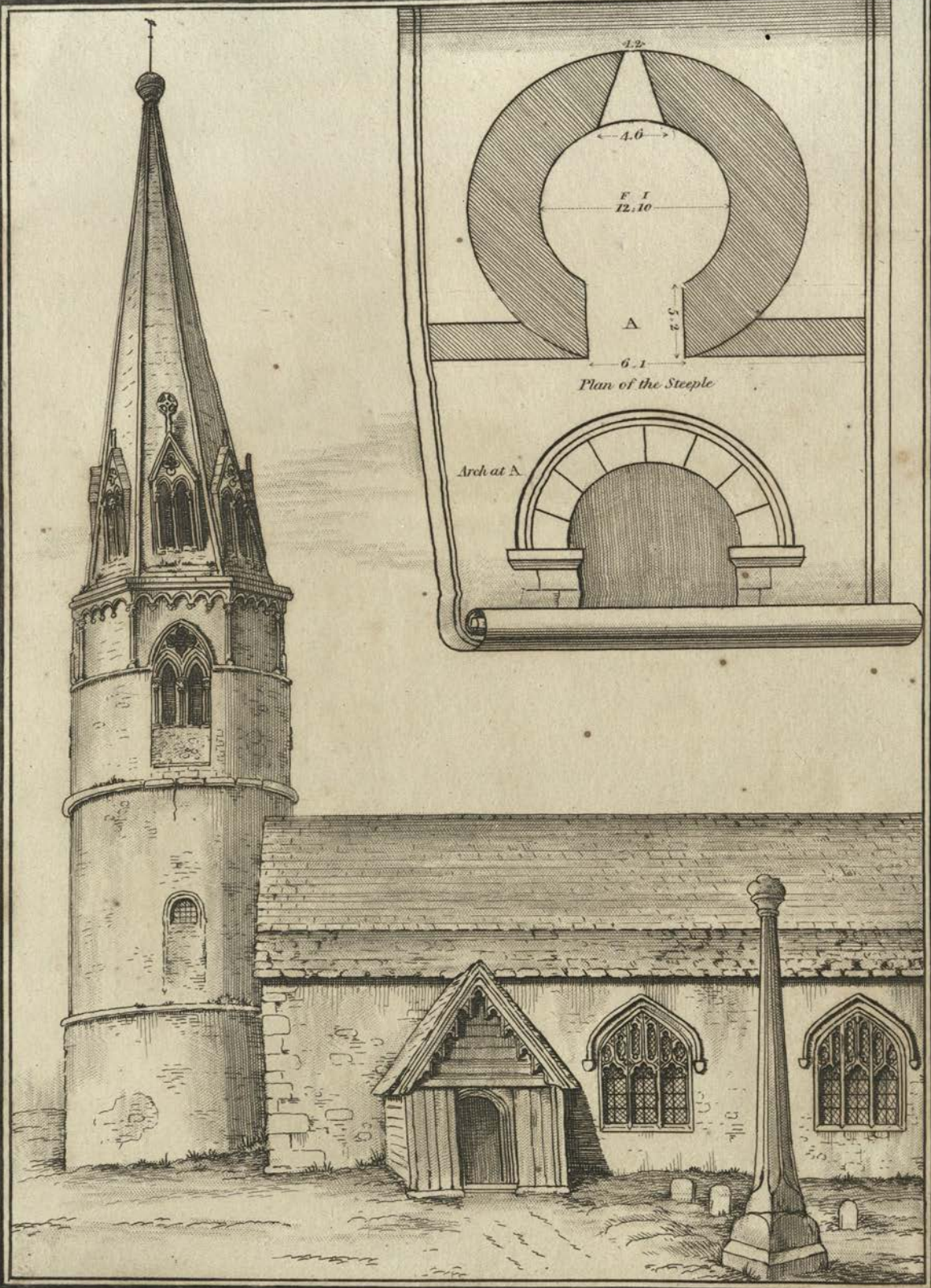
*Inscription on the Hungerford Horn.*


North Door of
Sparsholt-Church.
Part of the
West Door-way of
Aldermaston Church.
Door-way of the Nave of Shillingford Church.

DOOR-WAY OF
TIDMARSH CHURCH.



Antient leaden font in Childrey Church.


4.2
4.6
F I
12.10
A
5.2
6.1
Plan of the Steeple
Arch at A

Antient Bas-relief in Charney Chapel.
Ornament of the Door of Charney Chapel.
Door-way of BUCKLEBURY CHURCH.
Door-way of THATCHAM CHURCH.

Fig. 1.

*Capitals of Pillars between the Nave & Chancel.*

Fig. 2.

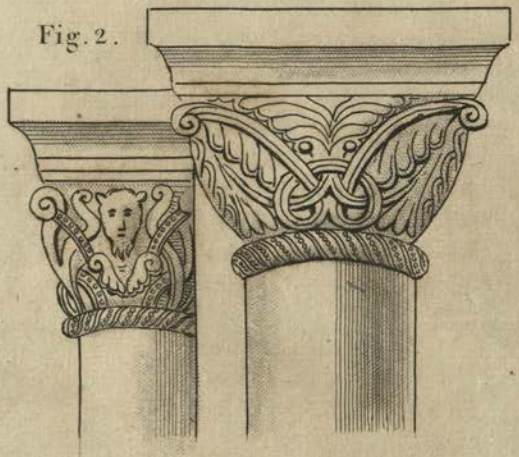


Fig. 3.

*Part of the Door-way on the south side of the Nave.*

ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENTS IN PADWORTH CHURCH.

The nave of Windſor church may be claſſed among the ſpecimens of Saxon architecture in this county; the arches are circular and the columns maſſive, with Saxon ornaments. The churches of Padworth, Bucklebury, Thatcham, and Tidmarſh, exhibit conſiderable remains of the more enriched Saxon architecture, wherein we ſee maſſive pillars and circular arches enriched with a profuſion of ornaments; among which many of thoſe uſed by the Romans may be diſtinguiſhed. The Chancels of Padworth, Finchampſted and Remenham churches are ſemicircular at the eaſt end; that of Tidmarſh terminates in the half of an hexagon. The door of the ſchool-houſe at Wantage, formerly a chapel, has a circular arch enriched with ſpiral mouldings and groteſque heads.

The doors of Sparſholt, Shillingford, and Lambourn churches, have circular arches with ſome of the Saxon ornaments, and ſlender ſhafts on each ſide, in the ſtyle of the early Gothic architecture, after the introduction of which it is probable that theſe works were executed.

Great Shefford and Welford churches having circular towers at the weſt end, with ſmall round-headed windows, may be claſſed with the Saxon buildings; an octangular ſtory has been added to the former, and a Gothic ſpire to the latter. In Sutton-Courtney church, ſome of the arches which are ſlightly pointed have the zig-zag and other Saxon mouldings; the capitals of the pillars, and the windows of the tower, are alſo in the Saxon ſtyle.

The churches of Uffington, Engleſield, and Faringdon, and the chapel at Little Faringdon, exhibit ſome ſtriking ſpecimens of the early Gothic. Uffington church is large and handſome, in the form of a croſs, and retains much of its original architecture; the windows are lancet-ſhaped, with ſlender detached pillars. Engleſield church has maſſive columns between the north and ſouth aiſle, the capitals of which are ornamented with flowers, &c. The arches are pointed; the window at the eaſt end of the ſouth aiſle is remarkably elegant, having three lancet-ſhaped lights, between which are ſlender detached pillars; ſome parts of this window are enriched with flowers [h]. The chancel of Faringdon church has ſmall lancet-ſhaped windows; the nave has circular arches and maſſive columns, the capitals of which are enriched with flowers; the tower is ſupported by large cluſtered columns and pointed arches. Beedon and Cheveley churches have alſo narrow pointed windows with ſlender pillars. Welford church has conſiderable remains of the early Gothic ſtyle in the chancel, and in the elegant ſpire, which has been engrafted on the more ancient circular tower at the weſt end. Some

[h] Theſe flowers of four petals are a prevailing embelliſhment of the early Gothic architecture; they are frequently placed within deep hollow mouldings, when they produce a very rich effect.

remains

remains of this ſtyle are alſo to be ſeen in three arches behind the altar, and on the ſouth ſide of the cloiſter in St. George's chapel at Windſor, being part of the building erected there by King Henry the Third, in the 27th year of his reign.

This county exhibits very few good examples of the Gothic architecture of the fourteenth century. The church of Shotteſbrook, which was built about the year 1337 by Sir William Truſſel, is in the form of a croſs, with a plain ſpire in the centre. The upper part of the eaſt window of the chancel is elegantly ramified; as is alſo that of Warfield, which appears to be of about the ſame age. The arches againſt the north and ſouth walls of Aldworth church, over the tombs of the De la Beches, are much enriched with quatrefoils, roſes, crockets, &c. in the prevailing taſte of the reign of King Edward the Third.

The only example of any conſequence in Berkſhire, of the latter ſtyle of Gothic architecture, is St. George's chapel at Windſor, unqueſtionably one of the moſt complete and ſplendid now exiſting: every part of it appears to have been finiſhed with the utmoſt care, and it is in a ſtate of the moſt perfect preſervation. The vaulted roof of this edifice, and indeed every part of the inſide, is enriched with a great profuſion of tracery, including an infinite variety of devices. It was begun by King Edward the Fourth, under the ſuperintendance of Richard Beauchamp, Biſhop of Saliſbury, but was not finiſhed till the reign of King Henry the Eighth. After the death of Biſhop Beauchamp in 1482, Sir Reginald Bray, prime miniſter to King Henry the Seventh, had the chief management of the building; and it is ſuppoſed that this magnificent fabrick is as much indebted to the good taſte of that ſtateſman for its beautiful decorations, as its completion was aſſiſted by the liberality of his pecuniary contributions.

*Ancient ſtained Glaſs.*—In the eaſt window of the chancel of Warfield and of Shotteſbrook churches, there are conſiderable remains of ſtained glaſs in the upper compartments, apparently coëval with the buildings, which are in the ſtyle of the fourteenth century. In great Shefford and Childrey churches there are ſome remains, but of no great conſequence. The great weſt window of St. George's chapel at Windſor is filled with ancient ſtained glaſs, conſiſting of a great variety of ſingle figures of ſaints, coats of arms, &c. collected from the different windows of the chapel, and put together under the direction of Dr. Lockman, Dean of Windſor in 1774.

*Rood-Lofts, Gothic Niches, &c.*—In Marcham and Sutton-Courtney churches there are wooden rood-lofts. In Great Shefford church, near the north door, is a niche richly

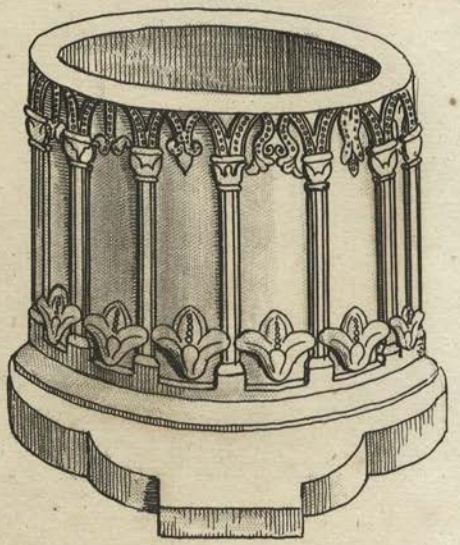
1

*Avington.*

2

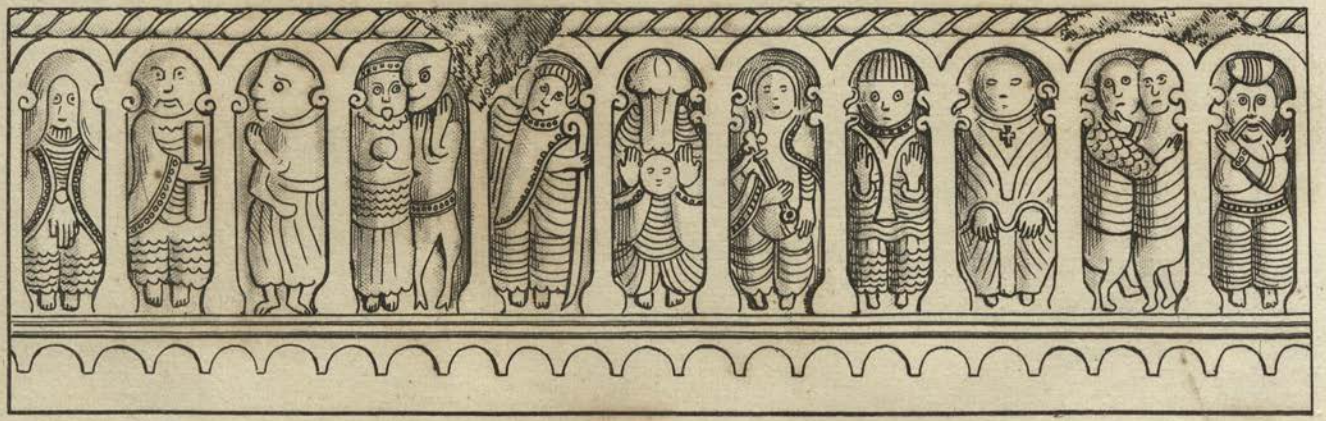
*Great Shefford.*

3

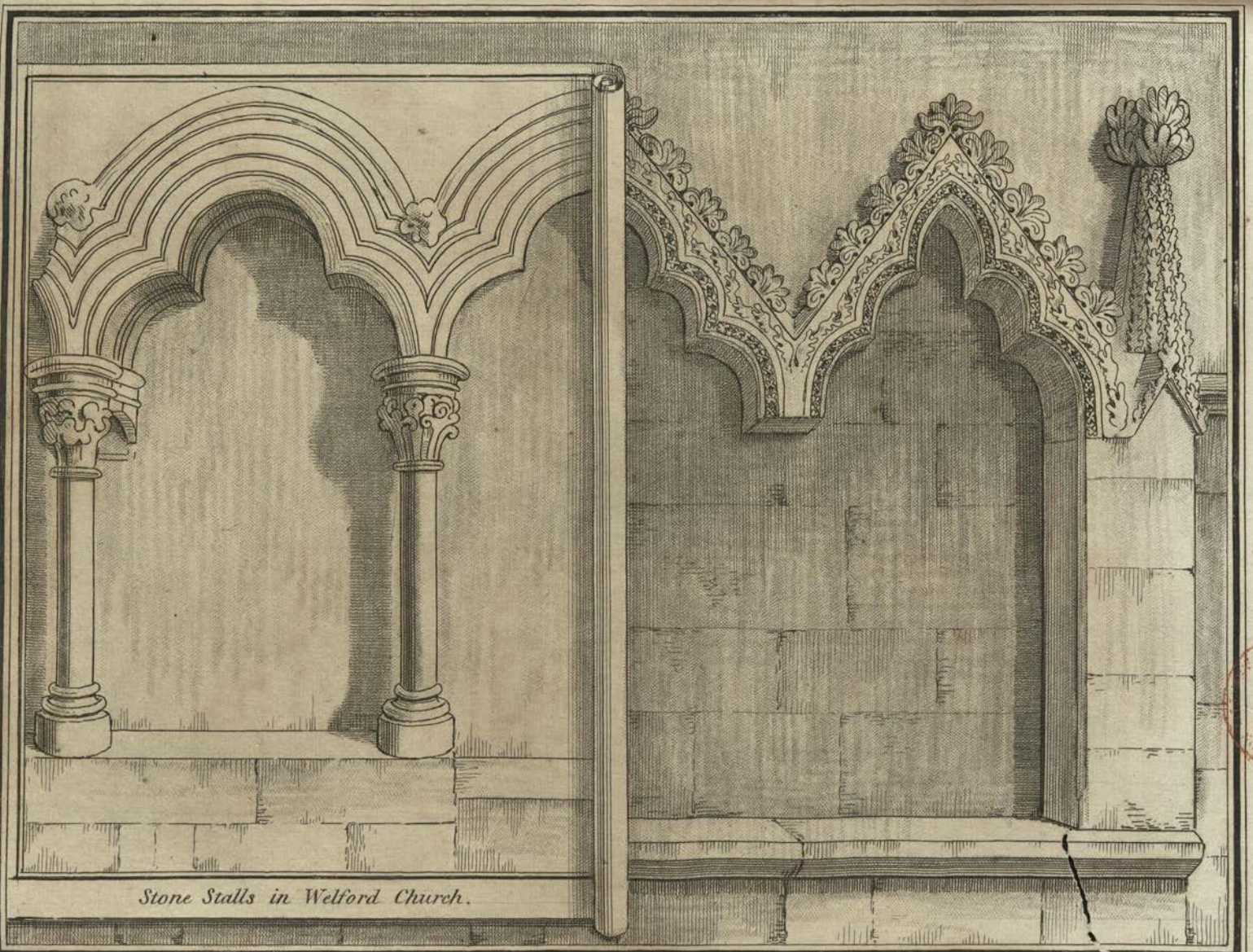


*Sutton Courtney.*

4



*Figures on Avington Font.*



*Stone Stalls in Welford Church.*

STONE STALLS IN FARINGDON CHURCH.

richly ornamented with pinnacles, &c. In Fifield, over the altar, a rich border of foliage in ſtone-work; in the centre, a niche for an image, with open arches and rich Gothic canopies.

*Fonts.*—Moſt of the ancient fonts in this county are circular; ſeveral of them which are of this form are variouſly ornamented. Avington is ſurrounded with groteſque figures rudely executed in bas-relief; Clewer, Enborne, and Sulhamſted-Abbots, with circular arches and a zig-zag moulding; Bright-Walton, with circular interlaced arches; Woolhampton, with plain circular arches, in one of which is a rude figure in bas-relief holding a key in his right hand and a book in his left: Purley has a zig-zag moulding with groteſque heads, and round interlaced arches; Great Shefford has rich ſcrolls of foliage, in the ſtyle of the enriched Saxon architecture: Sutton-Courtney is ſurrounded with Saxon arches and pillars, between which are flowers and foliage; Finchampſted, with beaded and plain mouldings; Welford, with circular interlaced arches reſting on pillars in the early Gothic ſtyle: Childrey is of lead, and evidently very ancient, having the figure of an abbot ſeveral times repeated. Engleſield is in the early Gothic ſtyle, with trefoil arches, and roſes. The font at Shotteſbrook is octangular, with Gothic arches, enriched with crockets, pinnacles, &c.; that at Hurley is alſo octangular, and ornamented with Gothic tracery. Moſt of the other fonts in this county are little ornamented and unworthy of notice.

*Stone Stalls and Piſcinæ.*—The moſt remarkable ſtone ſtalls in the Berkſhire churches are in thoſe of Faringdon, Welford, Uffington, Sparſholt, and Warfield. The three firſt are probably of the age of King Henry the Third, and coëval with the churches, which are of the earlieſt ſtyle of Gothic architecture.

The ſtone ſtalls at Faringdon are three in number, and of equal height; the piers or pillars by which they were ſeparated, are gone; a *piſcina* with a plain trefoil arch, is attached to them at the eaſt end. Thoſe in Welford church are alſo three in number, one of them higher than the other two; they are ſeparated by detached pillars, having plain baſes and capitals enriched with foliage. In Uffington church are three ſtone ſtalls of unequal heights, with a piſcina adjoining; they much reſemble thoſe at Welford, except that the capitals of the pillars are plain, and the arches more pointed.

Thoſe in Warfield and Sparſholt churches are in the more enriched ſtyle of the 14th century. The former are three in number and of equal height, with a *piſcina* adjoining. In Sparſholt church are three ſtone ſtalls and a *piſcina*, uniform and richly ornamented with trefoils, crockets, finials, and pinnacles; the ſtalls are ſeparated

ſeparated by detached pillars, with plain capitals and baſes. The three ſtone ſtalls in Shotteſbrook church, with a *piſcina* adjoining, are plain with trefoil arches, and coëval with the church, which was built about the year 1337. In Childrey church are three of equal height, with plain trefoil arches; the ſame number in Fifield church, with a *piſcina*. Aldworth, Steventon, Tidmarſh, and Harwell churches have two ſtone ſtalls in each. Adjoining to thoſe at Harwell is a *piſcina*. In Avington church there is a ſingle ſeat, with a plain circular arch and a *piſcina*. In Compton-Beauchamp is one long ſtone ſeat with an arm on each ſide; and there is a *piſcina*, the body of which is detached from the wall. In Eaton-Haſtings is one ſtone ſeat with a plain pointed arch.

*Ancient Tombs.*—In the chancel of Woolhampton church there is the following inſcription round a blue ſlab:—"*Hic jacet Ricardus de Herclond Rector hujus loci conditor cancelli.* From the form of the windows of the chapel, which are narrow and lancet-ſhaped, and alſo from that of the letters of the inſcription, it ſeems to be of the thirteenth century[1].

There are many rich examples in this county of the tombs of the fourteenth century; being, for the moſt part, thoſe of Cruſaders, under ogee arches, variouſly decorated. The moſt remarkable are thoſe in Aldworth church, where are to be ſeen no fewer than eight altar tombs, with the effigies of the deceaſed: ſix of theſe are arranged under arches, againſt the north and ſouth walls of the church; the two others under the arches between the nave and ſouth aiſle. The arches in the north aiſle are the moſt perfect; they are richly ornamented with trefoils, roſes, crockets, pinnacles, &c. In the ſouth aiſle, the firſt tomb from the eaſt end has the effigies of a man in plated armour, with ſurcoat, drawing his ſword: he appears to have been croſs-legged; but the legs and left hand are broken off. The ſecond tomb from the eaſt end has the effigies of a female, in a long looſe robe, with her left hand on her breaſt; the right hand is gone. There are the remains of figures of angels ſupporting her pillow. The third tomb, in this aiſle, has the mutilated figure of a man, who appears to have been habited in a coat which reaches below the knees: the hands have been joined in prayer.

The effigies on the altar tombs under the three arches, on the north ſide of the church, are all of Cruſaders. The firſt from the eaſt end is in plated armour, a good deal ornamented, with a ſurcoat. This figure is much mutilated. The head is raiſed, being ſupported by the right hand. The ſecond figure, under the central arch of the north aiſle, appears to be of Totternhoe ſtone: it is a good deal mutilated: his right hand is on his breaſt, the left on the handle of his ſword: on his

[1] See plate, page 204, fig. 1.

left

left arm is a ſhield. He has a head-piece and gorget of mail, with a ſurcoat. This figure is ſix feet four inches in length, and the laſt-mentioned figure ſeven feet two inches. Thoſe on the other tombs in this church do not appear, when perfect, to have exceeded the common ſize, though they have been often deſcribed as of gigantic proportions. The figure at the weſt end of the north aiſle, which is in plated armour, with a ſurcoat, is much mutilated. Between the nave and ſouth aiſle, under the arch next to the chancel, on a large altar tomb, are the figures of a knight and his lady, much mutilated: he appears in plated armour, with a ſurcoat, having a dog under each leg, and a lion at his feet; under his head is a helmet. The head of the lady is broken off: ſhe has a dog at her feet. This appears to have been the tomb of Nicholas Lord De la Beche[1]. Under the next arch is the mutilated figure of a knight, in plated armour and ſurcoat. All theſe tombs in Aldworth church have been commonly ſuppoſed to be of the family of De la Beche; if they were ſo, it is probable that Nicholas Lord De la Beche, who built the church, erected ſome of them in memory of his anceſtors, who had not actually been buried at that place, ſince their number ſeems too great for the ſucceſſive poſſeſſors of Aldworth, who were of the De la Beche family.

In the chancel of Sparſholt church there is an altar tomb, ornamented with tracery and ſhields, on which is the effigies of a Cruſader, under an ogee arch, richly ornamented with trefoils, crockets, &c.; a ſimilar tomb and arch are on the oppoſite ſide of the chancel, without any effigies. In the ſouth tranſept of the ſame church, under the ſouth window, are two altar tombs, on each of which is the effigies of a lady, carved in wood, in a long robe, with veil and wimple, and angels ſupporting the pillow. At the feet of one of the figures are two dogs, and of the other a lioneſs: the ſide of one of theſe tombs is ornamented with nine figures of armed knights, in different attitudes, under arches enriched with foliage; they appear to be coëval with the tranſept in which they ſtand. In the ſame place is the mutilated figure of a knight, carved in wood, reſting on a ſlab of ſtone on the floor: he is in plated armour and ſurcoat, having a lion at his feet.

Under the north window of the north tranſept of Childrey church, beneath an ogee arch, ornamented with trefoils, flowers, and crockets, lies the effigies of a cruſader, carved in ſtone, in mail and ſurcoat, in the act of drawing his ſword, having a lion at his feet: a ſimilar figure is to be ſeen under an obtuſe arch, in the ſouth wall of the ſouth aiſle of Englefield church, undoubtedly deſigned for one of the ancient family of Englefield. In the ſame place, under a ſimilar arch, is the effigies of a lady, carved in wood, in the dreſs of the early part of the fourteenth century: it appears formerly to have been painted.

[1] See the account of Aldworth, in the Parochial Topography.

There is the figure of a cruſader, carved in wood, under an ogee arch, in Burghfield church. At Inkpen, alſo, is a tomb with the effigies of a cruſader: and at Baſilden, in the ſouth wall of the chancel, on the outſide, an arch, richly ornamented with trefoils, pinnacles, and Gothic tracery, under which formerly lay a mutilated figure of the founder: it is now walled up.

In Childrey church, on the north ſide of the chancel, is an altar tomb, under a rich Gothic canopy, having an ogee arch, beneath which is an obtuſe one, ornamented with trefoils, crockets, &c. and in the ſpandrils with oak leaves, acorns, and animals. Over theſe are two rows of ſmall arches of tracery, formerly enriched with pinnacles.

In Shillingford church, in the north window of the chancel, is an altar tomb for John de Blewbury, a prieſt, who died in 1372, with a ſlab of Purbeck marble, formerly enriched with braſſes, which, from the traces that remain, appear to have conſiſted of the figure of the deceaſed, under a rich Gothic canopy, with his arms: over the tomb is the pointed arch of the window, ornamented on the ſides with quartrefoils and roſes. At the north end of the north tranſept of Shotteſbrooke church is the tomb of Sir William Truſſel, who founded the college at that place in 1337, and his lady. It is ornamented with Gothic tracery of trefoils: over the tomb are canopies, very richly ornamented with trefoils, crockets, pinnacles, and ſhields: the inſide of the canopies is alſo richly ornamented with tracery.

In the ſouth tranſept of Cumner church are two pointed arches, under which are tombs, with croſſes *florées*, ſaid to have been for ſome of the abbots of Abingdon. At Hatford is the tomb of the founder, with his effigies, in a tunic, holding a heart in his hand, with a hound at his feet. In Wantage church is an altar tomb, with the effigies of one of the Fitzwarren family, of the order of the Garter [k].

On the north ſide of the altar, in St. George's chapel, at Windſor, is the tomb of King Edward the Fourth, being a large ſlab of touchſtone, over which is erected an open ſcreen, highly enriched with Gothic tabernacle work of iron, gilt [l]. The vault, containing the royal corpſe, was opened in the year 1789, when the ſkeleton was found in a plain leaden coffin [m].

In Fyfield church there is an altar tomb for Sir John Golafre, who died in 1442,

[k] See the account of Wantage in the Parochial Topography. [l] This ſcreen is engraved in Sandford's Genealog. Hiſt. p. 391. 1ſt edit. It has been uſually deſcribed as of ſteel, and ſometimes of braſs gilt. Dr. Lind, who has carefully examined it with Mr. Davis, his Majeſty's blackſmith at Windſor, and obligingly communicated to us the reſult of this examination, ſays, "that the frame is of worked bar-iron, and the ſmall rich Gothic compartments of plate-iron, cut with a ſtamp-punch. The whole of this work appears to have been executed in the moſt ſimple manner poſſible, and put together with ſimilar ſimplicity." [m] See an account of this diſcovery, communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by the Biſhop of Saliſbury. Monum. Vetuſt. Vol. III. Pl. VII.

with

PART OF THE REMAINS OF ABINGDON ABBEY.

with his effigies in armour, underneath which is the figure of a ſkeleton in a ſhroud. In the ſame church is alſo an altar tomb of a Lady Gordon, who died about 1527. Over it is a flat arch, the whole being richly ornamented with gilded tracery, on a blue ground. There is a rich Gothic monument of the ſame form, in Engleſield church, for Sir Thomas Engleſield, Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, and Juſtice of Cheſter, who died in 1513.

Of ſlabs and monuments, inlaid with braſſes, in this county, the following are the moſt remarkable:—Several in Childrey church, for the family of Kingſton, partly of braſs, and partly of lead. The altar tomb of John Iſbury, in the chantry, founded by him in Lambourn church, has a braſs of him on the top, and arms round the ſides, ſome parts of which are enamelled. There is a braſs of Sir Ivo Fitzwarren, at Wantage, now placed againſt the wall of the church; in the Rutland chapel, in St. George's chapel at Windſor, a very rich braſs plate, gilt and enamelled, againſt the wall, containing the figures of Anne Ducheſs of Exeter, ſiſter of King Edward IV. and her ſecond huſband, Sir Thomas St. Leger, knt. each in a kneeling poſture. The Ducheſs died in the year 1475.

*Monaſtic Remains.*—Of the magnificent abbey, built by Henry I. at Reading, little more than rude heaps of ſtones are now to be ſeen; the walls have been nearly ſtripped of all architectural decorations. The crypt of the great hall remains in this ſtate. In a garden, now occupied by Mrs. Bellaſyſe, are the walls of a large room, belonging to the abbey; in the upper part of which are ſome circular arches, coëval with the original building. The Abbey Mills, which are ſtill remaining, exhibit alſo ſeveral Saxon arches. The gateway of the abbey is not of very ancient date. At Reading are conſiderable remains of the church of the Grey Friars, now converted into a Bridewell; the columns of the nave are cluſtered; the roof is gone. The great weſt window, and the columns, are in the ſtyle of the thirteenth century.

There are no remains of the abbey church at Abingdon. Among the buildings now occupied as a brewery by the proprietor, Mr. Child, are ſome ancient rooms belonging to the monaſtery, ſupported by vaults with groined roofs, reſting on ſhort pillars. Two of theſe rooms, each 34 feet by 14, have two large openings in the wall by which they are ſeparated; the door-way has a pointed arch. In one of them there is a fire-place, which has had ſlender pillars on either ſide, with octagonal ſhafts, and capitals of foliage, in the ſtyle of Henry the Third's reign (figured in the annexed plate): one of the ſhafts is gone. The windows of theſe rooms are evidently of a more modern date. The gateway of the abbey, which is not of very ancient date, is now uſed as a priſon.

At Hurley there are ſome remains of the Benedictine monaſtery, founded by Geffrey de Mandeville: the circular door-way, with zig-zag ornaments, at the weſt

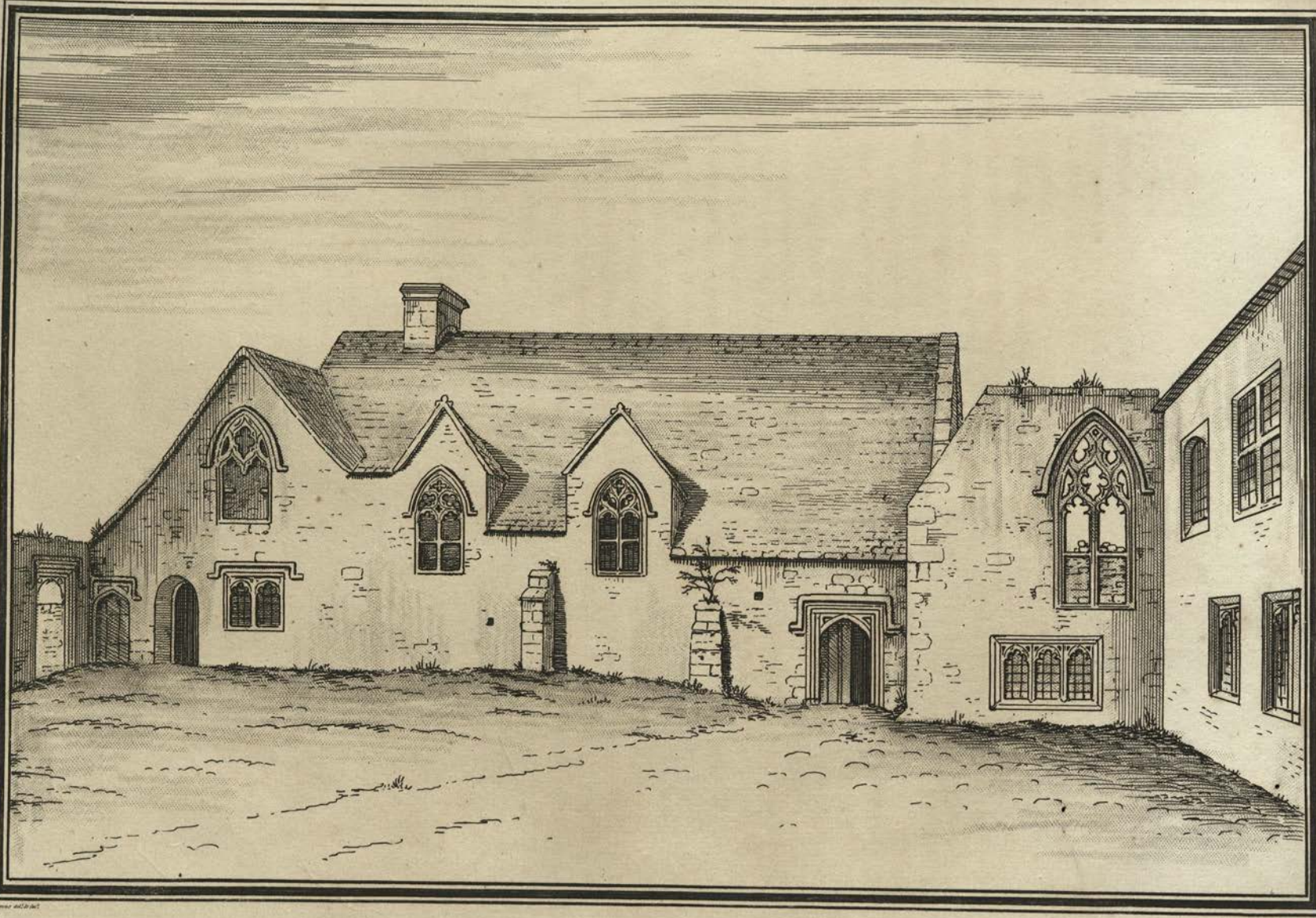
end of the pariſh church, formerly the chapel of the convent, was, it is probable, a part of the original ſtructure, which was dedicated in 1086. The refectory has been converted into ſtables, which retain the ancient pointed arches of the windows.

An ancient pointed door-way, which now forms one of the entrances to the ſeat of George Vanſittart eſq. is the only veſtige of the conventual buildings at Biſham. There are no remains of Bromhale nunnery, nor of the priories of Poghly, Sandleford, or Wallingford. The collegiate church alſo, at Wallingford, has been wholly deſtroyed: ſome of the buildings belonging to the prieſt and clerks remain. The pariſh church of Shotteſbrooke belonged to the college at that place, and was built by the founder, Sir William Truſſell: there are no remains of the college. The college of St. George at Windſor, which has flouriſhed for many centuries under the auſpices of Royal Patronage, has been already ſpoken of, and will be more particularly deſcribed in the account of that town.

*Caſtles and Sites of Caſtles.*—Firſt in the rank of caſtles, both in point of antiquity and conſequence, is Windſor caſtle, originally built by William the Conqueror, enlarged and improved from time to time, by ſucceeding monarchs, as will be found more particularly mentioned under the head of Windſor, in the parochial topography, and ſtill retaining its ancient magnificence. Of Wallingford, formerly a building of great extent and conſequence, nothing more than the fragment of a wall remains, except the ditches and earth-works, which are of large extent. Of Donnington caſtle, nothing appears but the ruins of the gate, conſiſting of two towers. The ſites of the caſtles of Faringdon, Newbury, Reading, and Brightwell, are unknown. Scarcely a veſtige remains of that of the De la Beches, at Aldworth: a farm-houſe at preſent occupies the ſite of it, where ſeveral foundations of walls, built with flints, have lately been dug up.

*Ancient Manſion-houſes.*—The moſt remarkable private manſion in this county, in point of antiquity, is the manor-houſe at Appleton. This building ſtands near the church, and is ſurrounded with a moat. The principal entrance is through a door-way, having a circular arch with various plain mouldings, and ſeveral ſmall pillars on each ſide, with capitals of foliage: this door-way leads into a paſſage, at the end of which was formerly a ſimilar one; and on one ſide of the paſſage are two plain door-ways with circular arches. The other parts of the building have been altered from their original form. It is probable, from the ſtyle of the principal door-way, that it is as ancient as the reign of King Henry II. which is the more remarkable, as it does not appear that this building ever formed any part of a religious houſe.

Witham houſe is an irregular embattled building, having a tower in the centre of the eaſt front, under which is the principal entrance by a bridge over a moat



WEST SIDE OF THE QUADRANGLE OF CUMNER PLACE.

moat. It was built in the beginning of the reign of King Henry VII. by Sir Richard Harcourt, who became poſſeſſed of the manor of Witham in 1480. Some alterations appear, from the form of the windows, to have been made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth or James I. [n]

Cumner-place, which was one of the country-ſeats of the abbots of Abingdon, having been the rectorial houſe reſerved in the hands of the abbot, ſtands on the weſt ſide of the church-yard. It is built round a quadrangle, and retains nearly its original form. The hall, now uſed as a granary, and the chapel occupy the weſt ſide of the quadrangle, and from the ſtyle of the windows ſeem to have been built as early as the fourteenth century. Several alterations appear to have been made by Anthony Forſter, the firſt grantee of the eſtate after the diſſolution of the monaſtery. The initials of his name, with the date 1571, appear over a door-caſe in the hall. Part of the building is now converted into a farm-houſe.

The rectorial houſe of Sutton-Courtney, which alſo belonged to the abbots of Abingdon, is ſtill ſtanding, and the ſeat of Francis Juſtice eſq. Some parts of it have been altered; but ſeveral of the original windows remain, which appear to be of nearly the ſame age as the oldeſt part of Cumner-place.

At Little-Shefford is an ancient uninhabited manſion-houſe, in the ſtyle of the buildings of King Henry the Eighth's reign; the hall of which is now uſed as a barn.

Ockholt manor-houſe, an ancient ſeat of the Norreys family, now a farm houſe, appears to have been built before the Reformation. In the hall is a large bay-window, filled with coats of arms, which appear coëval with the building; among them are thoſe of the Abbey of Abingdon and of the Norreys, with their motto, "Feythfully ſerve," frequently repeated.

*Camps and Earth Works.*—This county having been frequently the ſcene of military operations in remote times, exhibits the remains of many ancient camps. It is not an eaſy matter to determine by what people they have all been formed: it is probable, however, that thoſe of an irregular ſhape, upon the Downs, as Letcombe and Uffington caſtles, both in very commanding ſituations, were originally Britiſh, and afterwards uſed by the Romans. The former, which is almoſt circular, has a double vallum, and incloſes an area of nearly 26 acres: there is an entrance on the eaſt ſide. The entrenchments and ditches of this camp contain eight acres and a half. Uffington caſtle, a large camp on the White-Horſe Hill, juſt above the village, from which it takes its name, nearly reſembles that already deſcribed: it is about 700 feet in diameter, from eaſt to weſt, and 500 from north to ſouth, and is

[n] There is a view of Witham, engraved by Kip, in the Theatre de la Grande Bretagne, pl. 35.

ſurrounded

ſurrounded with a high vallum, and a ſlighter one on the outſide. The views from the inner vallum are very extenſive in every direction.

About half a mile north-weſt of Uffington caſtle, above the village of Compton-Beauchamp, is another camp, called Hardwell caſtle, in form approaching to a ſquare, except where it is interrupted by the broken edge of the hill. It is ſurrounded by a double vallum, except where the ground is ſo ſteep as not to require it. The dimenſions are about 140 paces by 180. It is probable, from its form, that this camp was a work of the Romans. Roman coins have been found in the neighbourhood.

In this place it may be proper to mention the vallum, which appears to have ſurrounded the town of Wallingford, and was unqueſtionably a Roman work: at the ſouth-weſt angle it is very entire, for the ſpace of about 270 paces on the ſouth ſide, and 370 on the weſt. This vallum is ſingle, and appears to have had a wet ditch, which rendered it very ſecure.

Near Little Coxwell are the remains of a camp, which appears to have been of a ſquare form. Its double ditch is nearly entire on the weſt ſide: few traces of the works remain in other parts. This camp commands a very extenſive view of the vale of White-Horſe, and the upper parts of Glouceſterſhire and Oxfordſhire. On an elevated ſpot on Bagſhot-heath, near Eaſt-Hampſted, is a ſtrong camp of an irregular form, following the ſhape of the hill, commonly called Cæſar's camp, and ſuppoſed to be a Roman work; it is about 560 paces in length, and 280 in width about the middle of it. The view from this camp is very extenſive; it lies near the great Roman road, leading from London to the weſtern part of the iſland; and at a ſmall diſtance from Wickham-Buſhes, where various Roman remains have been diſcovered.

Cherbury camp, about a mile from Puſey, in an inſulated part of the pariſh of Longworth, is oval. Its diameter in the wideſt part is 310 paces; in the narroweſt, 211; it is ſurrounded by a triple vallum.

On the weſt ſide of Aſhdown park, near the park wall, is a circular camp about 140 paces in diameter, with a ſingle vallum, commonly called Alfred's caſtle. Within the area there is an appearance very like the traces of a building. Two miles from Faringdon, on the road to Highworth, at a place called Badbury-hill, there is a camp nearly circular, with a ſtrong vallum, probably a Daniſh work *.

On Sinodun-hill, in the pariſh of Wittenham, near the Roman ſtation of Dorcheſter, there is a large camp of an irregular form, the vallum of which is very ſtrong and follows the ſhape of the hill. Lelands ſays, that Roman coins

* Leland calls this "a great ditche, or rather a camp of war, as ſum ſay, dikid by the *Danes* for a ſure campe." Itin. vol. II. f. 21.

had

a. The White Horse 374 feet in length.
b. The Declivity called by the Country People the Manger.
c. Dragon Hill.
d. d. Uffington Castle.
e. e. The antient Road here called The Icknield Way.
f. Wayland Smith.
g. The Ridgeway.

VIEW OF WHITE-HORSE HILL, BERKS.

had been often found in this place. There can be little doubt that it was occupied by the Romans, though perhaps originally a Britiſh work.

In an incloſed field, about half a mile from Little Coxwell, there is a ſpace of fourteen acres called *Cole's Pits*, in which are 273 pits, for the moſt part circular, excavated in the ſand, the depths of which in general vary from 7 to 22 feet; the diameter of one of them is 40 feet. The late Hon. Daines Barrington, who gave an account of them to the Society of Antiquaries, ſuppoſes that, as neither ſtone nor any valuable minerals could have been dug from them, they were the habitations, or hiding places, of the ancient Britons [p].

A little way to the weſtward of Uffington caſtle before-mentioned, near the *ridge-way* leading over the Downs, there is a conſiderable *tumulus*, commonly called *Wayland-Smith*; over which are, irregularly ſcattered, ſeveral of the large ſtones called *Sarſden ſtones*, found in that neighbourhood; three of the largeſt have a fourth laid on them in the manner of the Britiſh *cromlechs*. It is moſt probable that this *tumulus* is *Britiſh*.

Near Uffington caſtle is alſo the rude figure of a horſe which gives name to the hill, formed by cutting away the turf; this appears to be of great antiquity, and more likely to have been a work of the Britons than, as it has been uſually ſuppoſed, a memorial for Alfred's victory over the Danes: the figure of a horſe, a good deal reſembling that above-mentioned, frequently occurs on the Britiſh coins. Juſt under the White-Horſe hill there is a round hill called Dragon-hill, which Mr. Aubrey and others have ſuppoſed to be the *tumulus* of ſome Britiſh chief; it is not however by any means certain that it is an artificial mount. Many *tumuli* are diſperſed on the Berkſhire downs, eſpecially in the way from Uffington to Lambourn, where a groupe of them has obtained the name of the Seven Barrows.

*Miſcellaneous Antiquities.*—In digging a grave at Kentbury, in 1762, a large quantity of Saxon coins were found of Edred, Edwy, and Edmund [q]; and on rebuilding the bridge over the Kennet at Newbury, in 1770, ſome ancient knives, ſpoons, and Engliſh coins, &c. [r] Various antiquities were diſcovered, in the year 1705, at St. Leonard's hill near Windſor, conſiſting of ſeveral ſpear-heads, pieces of a trumpet, a ſpur, and a bronze lamp, preſented by Sir Hans Sloane to the Society of Antiquaries [s]; the latter was ſuppoſed to be Roman, but it has not the appearance of ſo high antiquity.

[p] See Archæolog. vol. VI. p. 236—243. Mr. Coates, in the corrections and additions, at the end of his hiſtory of Reading, mentions "pits in Early field, near Reading, called the Maſe-holes," between 15 and 20 feet deep, and covering nearly an acre of ground. [q] Gough's Camden, vol. I. p. 159. [r] Ibid. [s] Ibid.

PARO-

## PAROCHIAL TOPOGRAPHY.

THIS county, like Bedfordſhire, has had no hiſtorian. The work called Aſhmole's Antiquities of Berkſhire is improperly ſo termed. It was publiſhed after his death, and has no other pretenſion to being called by his name, than that it conſiſts chiefly of church notes copied from ſuch as were collected by that induſtrious herald and antiquary, and by him depoſited in the Heralds' College. The ſcanty information which it contains of other matters was collected by the editor. Mr. Rowe Mores had an intention of writing a topographical hiſtory of this county, and made collections for that purpoſe. The anſwers from ſome of the clergy to his circular queries are printed in the Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica. A copious hiſtory of Reading has been lately publiſhed by the Rev. Charles Coates. In Aſhmole's Hiſtory of the Order of the Garter, there is a ſhort account of the caſtle, chapel, and college at Windſor, of which he intended to have publiſhed a complete hiſtory. A hiſtory of Windſor was publiſhed in 1749, by J. Pote, a bookſeller at Eton. The information contained in the following brief parochial account has been collected from the ſame ſources as that for Bedfordſhire; namely, from public records and a perſonal ſurvey of the ſeveral pariſhes, aſſiſted by occaſional communications from the clergy and others, to all of whom we beg to return our acknowledgments, particularly to the Rev. Dr. Rawbone, vicar of Buckland, the Rev. Mr. Shaw, vicar of Wantage, and James Payn eſq. of Maidenhead. Dr. Beke's communications have added much value to the foregoing introduction.

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ABINGDON, or ABINGTON, in the hundred of Hormer, is a large market and borough town, ſituated at the conflux of the Ock and the Thames, 56 miles from London, on the road to Cirenceſter. It gives name to a deanery.

The town, which is of great antiquity, was originally called Seovecheſham, or Seuſham. A manuſcript in the Cottonian library, ſpeaking of its ancient ſtate, deſcribes it as a large and wealthy city, where was the royal reſidence, whither the people reſorted to aſſiſt at the great councils of the nation, and where, before the eſtabliſhment of Chriſtianity, the Britons had a place of religious worſhip [t].

[t] See Dugdale's Monaſticon, vol. i. p. 99.

In

In the reign of Centwin, King of the Weſt Saxons, who died in 686, Ciſſa, one of his viceroys, or his nephew Heane, or perhaps both jointly, founded a monaſtery in this town, in honour of the Virgin Mary, for 12 monks of the Benedictine order, of whom Heane was made abbot [u]. At his requeſt Ceadwall, the ſon and ſucceſſor of Centwin, not only confirmed to him and his monks the ſite of their monaſtery, but gave them alſo the town of Seovecheſham, with all its appendages, commanding that it ſhould be thenceforwards called *Abbendon* [x], which, according to the account of a monkiſh writer of the 13th century, was the name of a hill near Bayworth, in the neighbouring pariſh of Sunningwell, where the abbey was firſt built. This hill is ſaid to have been ſo called from Aben, ſon of a noble Briton, who eſcaped from the maſſacre of Hengiſt, and retiring thither led a life of extraordinary piety [y]. The fact of the monaſtery having been eſtabliſhed for a few years, ſomewhere in the neighbourhood of Bagley wood [z], before its removal to Seovecheſham, is generally admitted; but the moſt intelligent antiquaries have conſidered the ſtory of Aben to be fabulous, and that the name of Abendon, given to this ancient town in the reign of Ceadwall, was occaſioned by its connection with the abbey, in conſequence of that monarch's munificent donation. The original building was 120 feet in length, being circular at the eaſt and weſt ends [a].

Having flouriſhed for nearly two centuries, this abbey was deſtroyed by the Danes in the reign of King Alfred [b], who, to complete the ruin of the poor monks, took away from them the town of Abingdon, and the whole of their eſtates, becauſe they had not made what he eſteemed a ſufficient requital to him for vanquiſhing their enemies the Danes. His grandſon, Edred, reſtored the poſſeſſions of the convent, and laid the firſt ſtone of a new monaſtery [c]. The work was completed by St. Ethelwold the abbot (who was afterwards biſhop of Wincheſter), and his ſucceſſor Ordgar, who was made abbot in 963. King Edgar ſeems to have acquired, undeſervedly, the credit of having reſtored this abbey; for his charter, as printed by Dugdale, only confirms what had been before given by Edred. Numerous benefactions contributed to raiſe it to the higheſt rank among the monaſtic inſtitutions of the kingdom; it became one of the mitred abbies, and ſo extenſive was the landed property of the abbot and convent, even at an

[u] Dugdale's Monaſticon, Tanner's Notitia Monaſtica, and Br. Willis's Mitred Abbies.

[x] Dugdale's Monaſticon, vol. I. p. 98.

[y] Hiſtory of the foundation of the abbey of Abingdon (written in the reign of Henry III.) among the Cottonian MSS. Claudius C. IX.

[z] Hearne ſuppoſes at Chilſwell farm, in the pariſh of Cumner; but the writer of the MS. abovementioned, ſays near Bayworth.

[a] Dugdale's Monaſticon, vol. I. p. 98. [b] Leland's Collectanea, vol. II. p. 253. [c] Ibid.

early period, that, when the Norman Survey was taken, they had more than 30 manors in the county of Berks, in their own poſſeſſion, beſides ſeveral others which were held under them as lords of the fee. Their clear yearly rental, at the time of the diſſolution, was 1876l. 10s. 9d.

In the year 1073, Egelwinus, Biſhop of Durham, was impriſoned in the abbey at Abingdon, and, as the Chronicles relate, famiſhed to death [d]. Geffrey of Monmouth, the hiſtorian, is ſaid, by Godwin, to have been abbot of Abingdon, and to have been buried in that convent. Among other eminent perſons who have received ſepulture there, may be reckoned St. Edward, king and martyr, and Robert D'Oilly the builder of Oxford caſtle, a powerful baron in the reign of William the Conqueror [e]. In 1326 the abbey was plundered by the townſmen of Abingdon [f].

Leland deſcribes this monaſtery as a magnificent pile of building: the conventual church and the eaſtern part of the convent were built by the Norman abbots; the ſtately weſt front by the abbots Aſcheſdune and Sante, in the fifteenth century. It appears that part of the precincts of the abbey were embattled, for which the abbot had a licence from King Edward III. in 1330 [g]. Camden deſcribes the ruins as exhibiting, in his time, evident marks of its former grandeur. Browne Willis ſpeaks of the gate-houſe as the only remaining veſtige of the abbey; but there are ſtill ſeveral remnants of it among the old buildings now occupied as a brewery by the proprietor, Mr. Child [h]. The abbey gate-way is now uſed as a gaol.

The laſt abbot of Abingdon, Thomas Penthecoſt, alias Rowland, was among the firſt to acknowledge the king's ſupremacy. For his ready compliance he was rewarded, after the ſurrender of his convent, which took place in 1538, with a penſion of 200l. *per annum*; beſides the capital manſion and park at Cumner (which had been his country-ſeat as abbot of Abingdon) for life, or till the King ſhould give him preferment to the amount of 223l. *per annum*. Browne Willis [i] regards this ample grant as a full refutation of the charges which were brought againſt this prelate by the viſitors of religious houſes; but, although ſuch charges were, perhaps in this and many other inſtances, either wholly without foundation, or much exaggerated to ſerve an intereſted purpoſe, yet it may be preſumed, from what we know of that monarch's character, that a ready compliance with his will was, in his eyes, the greateſt of virtues, and non-compliance the worſt of crimes, as the abbot of Reading and many others found to their coſt.

[d] Holinſhed. [e] Br. Willis's Mitred Abbies. [f] Hen. Knighton, inter Decem Scriptores, 2551.
[g] Pat. 4 Edw. III. p. 1. [h] See p. 211. [i] In his Mitred Abbies.

The

The ſite of the abbey at Abingdon was granted to Sir Thomas Seymour, and afterwards to Sir Thomas Wroth[k]. It is now in ſeveralties; Mr. Child has that part where his brewery is carried on; Mr. Phillips, of Culham, is proprietor of that part which adjoins the mills.

Ciſſa, ſiſter of Heane, founder of the abbey, or, as ſome ſay, Cilla, ſiſter of King Ceadwall, about the year 690, founded a nunnery at Abingdon in honour of St. Helen, of which ſhe was the firſt prioreſs. It was afterwards removed to Witham, in this county[l]. The ſite of the nunnery at Abingdon was called afterwards the manor of St. Elen's, and gave name to a family that poſſeſſed it for a conſiderable time. In the year 1371 it was conveyed by Matilda, ſiſter and heir of Philip de St. Elen, to Aylmer Lord St. Amand[m], who died ſeiſed of it in 1403[n]. The feoffees of Eleanor de St. Amand conveyed it, in 1427, to Thomas Chaucer and others, commiſſioners of the fraternity of the Holy Croſs[o]; and it is ſuppoſed now to form part of the property of Chriſt's hoſpital in this town, to which almoſt the whole of the eſtates of the above-mentioned fraternity were granted by King Edward VI.

It has been already mentioned that, at a very early period, long before the abbey was built, Abingdon, or, more properly ſpeaking, Seovecheſham, as it was then called, was a royal reſidence. It ſeems to have been deſerted by the Saxon Kings for many years, when Offa, King of the Mercians and Weſt Saxons, on an accidental viſit to Abingdon, became enamoured of a ſpot called the Iſle of Anderſey, over againſt the monaſtery; where was then a building inhabited by certain wealthy perſons who had taken the religious habit, having bequeathed their property to the church after their deceaſe, but reſerving the poſſeſſion of it during life. For this iſland the king gave the abbot and convent the manor of Gooſey, which they continued to poſſeſs till the diſſolution, and built in the iſland a palace which was for a while his reſidence. His ſon, Egfrid, cloſed his ſhort reign there in 694. During the reign of Kenwulf, his ſucceſſor, the palace was deſerted by its royal owner, and was inhabited only by his huntſmen, falconers, and other ſervants, who became a great nuiſance to the convent. At the requeſt of Abbot Rethunus, and in conſideration of the manor of Sutton and 120 pounds of ſilver, the king reſtored the iſland to the monks, with a promiſe that it ſhould never more become the ſite of a royal palace[p]. Leland, in his Itinerary, mentions the iſland of Anderſey as lying to the ſouth-weſt of the town, between the old and new bottom of Iſis, over againſt St. Helen's; and ſays, that the ſite of the fortreſs was in his time occupied by a barn.

[k] Tanner. [l] Ibid. [m] Clauſ. Rot. [n] Eſch. Hen. IV. [o] Ancient records belonging to the corporation of Abingdon. [p] Dugdale's Monaſticon, vol. I. p. 98.

Although Abingdon, after this tranſaction with Kenwulf, was no longer a royal reſidence, yet it appears that our monarchs ſometimes kept their court there, being gueſts to the monks, as they uſually were in all towns where they had no palace, and there was a monaſtery, which had ſuitable accommodations for their reception. William the Conqueror kept his Eaſter at Abingdon, in 1084, being moſt ſplendidly entertained by Robert D'Oilly, who, through the king's favour, was one of the moſt powerful barons of that age. His ſon-in-law, Milo Criſpin, and Oſmund, biſhop of Sarum, were the only perſons admitted to dine at the king's table. When the monarch quitted Abingdon, he left his younger ſon, afterwards King Henry I. to be educated in the convent, under the inſpection of Robert D'Oilly [q]. The royal youth profited ſo much under his tutor, that he obtained the appellation of Beauclerc, by which he was ever after diſtinguiſhed. King Henry III. kept his court at Abingdon, in 1276, as appears by the Chronicle of Dunſtaple.

The inſurrection mentioned by our hiſtorians [r], which broke out in 1431, whilſt King Henry VI. was in France, made its appearance in this town, of which William Mandeville, one of the ringleaders, was bailiff [s]. The object of the inſurgents was to level all diſtinctions; and their enmity was chiefly directed againſt the clergy, whoſe heads they threatened to make as cheap as ſheep's heads, three or four a penny. The Duke of Glouceſter, on hearing of the commotion, haſtened to Abingdon, where he ſoon reſtored peace by ſeizing Mandeville, the principal ringleader, whom he ſentenced to inſtant execution.

In the early part of the great civil war between Charles I. and his parliament, the king had a garriſon at Abingdon, where he eſtabliſhed the head quarters of his horſe [t]. Prince Rupert was there with his army in December, 1642. On the 17th of April, 1644, the king, attended by the Prince and the Duke of York, brought the queen to Abingdon, from whence ſhe ſoon afterwards removed to Exeter [u]. A few days after the royal army quitted Reading, in the month of May, 1644, the King held a council of war at Abingdon, from whence he returned to Oxford, leaving his infantry behind him, with inſtructions to defend the town, if the enemy, who were expected to follow, ſhould advance from the eaſt, where, beſides ſome very indifferent fortifications, they had the advantage of the river; but if the enemy advanced from the weſt, the garriſon ſhould draw out and fight them, unleſs they ſhould find their numbers to be very ſuperior. But on the approach of the Earl of Eſſex, with his army, although they advanced from the eaſtward, the general, whoſe name ſeems not to be recorded, immediately gave

[q] Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 69. [r] See Holinſhed. [s] Little's MS. Hiſtory of Abingdon. [t] Clarendon, vol. II. p. 82. 8vo. edit. [u] Walker's Hiſtorical Diſcourſes, p. 10, 11.

orders

orders to quit the town, and the whole army marched to Oxford[x]. On the 25th of May, being the day after the king returned to Oxford, the Earl of Eſſex took poſſeſſion of the town, plundered it, and placed there a garriſon for the parliament, of which General Browne, a very diſtinguiſhed officer, and one of the members for the city of London, was made governor.

A few days afterwards, on the 31ſt of May, as Sir Edward Walker informs us, Waller's army, which had been quartered near Wantage, entered Abingdon, committed freſh plunder on the inhabitants, and ſawed down the croſs. The new garriſon at Abingdon proved ſo very troubleſome a neighbour to Oxford, particularly by obſtructing the communication between that town and Wallingford, that various attempts were made, on the part of the royaliſts, to regain poſſeſſion of it. The firſt was by the Earl of Cleveland, who, with 150 horſe, contrived to enter the town, endeavouring to take it by ſurprize; but, on the alarm being given to the garriſon, in which were 1000 foot and 400 horſe, he was obliged to give over his attempt, and ſecure his retreat; which he did with little loſs[y]. Soon afterwards Sir Henry Gage attempted to build a fort at Culham Bridge, but was mortally wounded in a ſally made by the governor[z]. Another attempt was made in 1645, by Sir Stephen Hawkins, with no better ſucceſs, when the governor was abſent in London[a]. In March, 1646, Prince Rupert made an attack on the town; and, getting within the works, placed 500 men in the abbey, but was in the end overpowered, and compelled to retreat[b]. A cruel cuſtom is ſaid to have prevailed within this garriſon, of hanging all the Iriſh priſoners without a trial; a practice ſo notorious, that "Abingdon law" became proverbial[c].

Abingdon increaſed much in population and wealth, by the building of Burford, or Borford Bridge, near the town, and another bridge at Culhamford, about half a mile eaſt of it. The dangerous paſſage at the fords, and the frequent inundations of the intermediate road, made their communication with the metropolis very precarious; but after theſe bridges were built, it was not only rendered certain, but Abingdon became a conſiderable thoroughfare, the road to Cirenceſter, and other places towards the weſt, which had before paſſed by a more circuitous route through Wallingford, being now brought through this town. Camden mentions ſome ancient verſes, formerly in St. Helen's church, which attributed the honour of this great public work, accompliſhed in the year 1416, to King Henry V. but with how little reaſon may be ſeen by a peruſal of that monarch's charter[d], the ſubſtance of which is to the following purport:—Having been given to underſtand, that the

[x] Clarendon, vol. II. p. 484. [y] Ibid. II. 487. [z] Ibid. II. 554. and Heath's Chronicle, p. 70.
[a] Heath, p. 94. [b] Perfect Occurrences, March, 1646. [c] Heath, p. 75, 76.
[d] Pat. 4 Hen. V.

highway

highway leading from Abingdon to Dorcheſter, by Borford and Culhamford, was rendered ſo dangerous by the inundation of the river Thames, that his ſubjects could not paſs that way without imminent peril of their lives, and that John Houchons, John Bret, and the community of the ſaid town of Abingdon, had an intention of building two bridges, of their own bounty, one at Borford, the other at Culhamford, and of making a cauſey between the bridges, at their own coſt, and that of others who might contribute to aſſiſt them in the work; he, therefore, grants his royal licence and protection that they may, at their own coſt, and that of other inhabitants of the neighbourhood, build the ſaid bridges, conſtruct the cauſey, and keep them in repair, without let or moleſtation from himſelf, or his ſucceſſors, their ſheriffs, bailiffs, juſtices, &c. &c. according to the uſual form of ſuch licences. John Houchons, or Hutchins, mentioned in the charter, laid the firſt ſtone on St. Alban's day. He and John Banbury were zealous promoters of the work, and purchaſed the ground of the abbot, for which they gave him 115l.[e]. Neither the abbot, nor any of the monks, appear to have diſtinguiſhed themſelves as benefactors. Sir Peter Beſils gave the ſtones from his quarries at Beſils-Legh and Sandford; and by his will in 1424, his lands and tenements in Abingdon, towards a fund for repairs. The greateſt benefactor was Geffrey Barbour, a merchant of Abingdon, who gave 1000 marks towards the building, and for making the cauſey. In 1430, an act of parliament paſſed to make the bridges and road a free paſſage for ever. In 1453, William Hales and Maud his wife added three arches to one of the bridges, the road being ſtill ſometimes ſubject to inundations. Many of the above particulars are recounted in ancient rhymes, on a tablet, put up in 1457, by Richard Forman[f], in Chriſt's Hoſpital at Abingdon. The following lines, deſcribing the inconveniences of the ferry, may ſerve as a ſpecimen:

> "And if it were a beggar had breed in his bagge,
> He ſchulde be ryght ſoone ibid for to goo aboute,
> And of the pore penyleſs the hireward wold have,
> A hood or a girdel, and let hem goo withoute."

The whole is printed in Aſhmole's Collections.

Leland ſpeaks of Abingdon, as having a conſiderable clothing manufactory: the town, ſays he "ſtondith by clothing." Before Queen Mary's reign this manufactory appears to have declined; and the town, from that cauſe, and partly perhaps in con-

[e] This and many other curious particulars relating to the bridges, the fraternity of the Holy Croſs, &c. are taken from a MS. hiſtory of Abingdon, collected by Francis Little, one of the principal burgeſſes in the year 1627, from ancient documents then exiſting, in the poſſeſſion of the corporation. The preſent corporation obligingly favoured us with acceſs to the manuſcript.

[f] See Little's MS.

ſequence

ſequence of the diſſolution of the abbey, was reduced ſo low, that Sir John Maſon, a native of Abingdon, who, from a mean origin, roſe to an honourable ſtation in the courts of King Edward VI. Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, and filled the honourable poſt of Chancellor of the Univerſity of Oxford, was induced to lay its grievances before his ſovereign in the reign of Queen Mary; whoſe charter, bearing date 1556, recites that "the town had fallen into great ruin and decay by the dilapidations of houſes, fulling mills, &c. and was like to come and fall into extreme calamities." The pariſh of St. Helen's, according to an account taken by command of cardinal Pole in 1555, the year before this charter, contained only 1400 inhabitants[s]; their number in 1801, according to the returns under the Population Act, was 3836. In conſequence of Sir John Maſon's repreſentation, Queen Mary granted the townſmen lands to the value of 102l. 6s. 7d. *per annum*, to enable them to pay their fee-farm rent, and to maintain the ſtate and reputation of the town. She granted them alſo a charter of incorporation, under which the town is governed by a Mayor, two Bailiffs, and nine Aldermen; and the privilege of ſending one member to parliament. Richard Mayot, the firſt mayor, was buried in 1579; his widow ſurvived till 1614, being at the time of her death 104 years of age. The firſt member elected for the town, was Oliver Hyde eſq. The right of election was veſted, by Queen Mary's charter, in the corporation; but of late it has been deemed to be in the inhabitants at large, not receiving alms.

Queen Mary's charter contains a grant of a market on Monday, and five fairs, the firſt Monday in Lent, the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, St. Margaret (July 20), St. Edmund the Biſhop, and St. Andrew. The preſent fairs, being ſix in number, are held on the firſt Monday in Lent, St. Mark O. S. June 20, St. James O. S. the Monday after Michaelmas day, and December 11.

There are now two markets, Monday and Friday; the firſt is a great mart for corn; the Friday's market is principally for the delivery of corn ſold on the preceding Monday. The market-houſe is a large building of freeſtone, erected about the year 1700. It ſupports a hall, in which are held the Summer Aſſizes for the county. The Eaſter Seſſions are held alſo at Abingdon. The Michaelmas Seſſions are held either at Abingdon or Reading, at the option of the magiſtrates.

The moſt conſiderable manufacture of the town, of late years, has been that of dreſſing hemp and making ſacking, which has conſtituted the principal employment of the poor. A great trade is carried on in malt for the London markets. An act of parliament, for paving the town of Abingdon, paſſed in 1794.

The manor of Abingdon, which belonged to the monaſtery, became afterwards, by royal grant, veſted in the corporation.

[s] MS. in the Bodleian Library.

The

The manor of Barton, or Barton-Court, in the pariſh of St. Helen's, belonged to the abbey, and was granted, ſoon after the diſſolution, to the family of Reade. Compton Reade eſq. of Barton, was created a baronet in 1661. It has long ceaſed to be a reſidence of the family; but the eſtate is ſtill their property, and now belongs to the Dowager Lady Reade. Near Barton farm is a cloſe belonging to the corporation, called the *Prytany*, where the broken victuals from the abbey are ſaid to have been diſtributed.

The manor of *Shippon*, a hamlet in the pariſh of St. Helen's, which was parcel alſo of the poſſeſſions of the abbey, now belongs to his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, having been annexed to the Duchy of Cornwall.

The manor of *Norcot*, a hamlet in the pariſhes of St. Helen's and St. Nicholas, belonged alſo to the abbey: in 1631 it was the property of John Lyon, who died that year, leaving two nephews of the names of Hyde and Gifford, joint heirs of his eſtates. Norcot is now the property of Sir George Bowyer bart.

Lacie's-Court, now a farm in the occupation of Mr. Bowles, was for ſome time, about the middle of the 17th century, the property and reſidence of the celebrated Dr. Peter Heylin[h].

There are two pariſh churches in Abingdon, dedicated to St. Nicholas and St. Helen. That of St. Nicholas is ſuppoſed to have been built about the year 1300, by Abbot Nicholas de Coleham; but the circular door at the weſt end, with zigzag ornaments, appears to be of a much earlier age. Leland ſays that this was "of old tyme, the chefe paroche chirche of Abyndon, but (when he wrote) the greateſt reſorte of all the towne was to St. Helens." Divine ſervice is now performed only occaſionally in the church of St, Nicholas. The benefice is a rectory in the patronage of the chancellor; but its profits are ſo ſmall, that they are deemed inſufficient for the maintenance of a miniſter to officiate conſtantly. Hearne, in his edition of Leland's Collectanea, ſays that it was endowed with the tythes belonging to a dilapidated chapel at Bayworth, which formerly conſtituted the endowment of a charnel chapel, at the weſt end of the area on which the abbey church ſtood.

The church of St. Nicholas contains little that is remarkable. In one of the windows are the arms of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York. The only monument of any note, is that of Walter Dairell eſq. of. Lillingſton-Dairell, in Buckinghamſhire, recorder of Abingdon, who died in 1628. The epitaph records his virtues in the quaint ſtyle of panegyrick then in uſe.

The church of St. Helen's is a large Gothic building, with a handſome ſpire; it has a ſpacious chancel and nave, on each ſide of which are two aiſles. The farther aiſle on the ſouth ſide was built for a gild, in 1539, by a perſon who lies buried

[h] Ant. Wood's Athen. Oxon.

under

under an altar tomb in the north wall, as appears by part of an inſcription ſtill remaining; the name is concealed by the ſtairs of a gallery; the initials R. A.[1] occur, with the above mentioned date on ſeveral of the ſhields which ſurround the cornice. Our Lady's aiſle was ceiled, at the expence of Nicholas Gould, one of the fraternity of the holy croſs, and his wife Amy, in the reign of Henry VI. It had formerly this inſcription:

"In the worſhip of our Lady
Pray for Nicholas Gould and Amy."

The ſame perſons are ſaid alſo to have ceiled the chancel of our Lady, and put up in the roof, the figures of kings of the family of Jeſſe, and Prophets. Several of theſe figures remain with the names of Nathan, Solomon, &c. written under them, at the weſt end of the aiſle, under Gothic canopies richly carved in wood. The tradition is, that they were removed from the abbey after the diſſolution, but they ſeem to have been made for the roof where they are now placed. Underneath are ſome Latin inſcriptions, in monkiſh rhymes, from which we learn that William Beve was founder of the chapel, that William Cholſey repaired the roof, and that Henry Bernington gave the veſtments and a ſilver croſs. It is probable that this was the chapel where the fraternity of the holy croſs uſed to attend divine ſervice, and that the above mentioned benefactors were members of that ſociety. In a gallery of this aiſle hangs a tablet, with a portrait of Mr. William Lee, who died at the age of 92. The portrait is accompanied by a genealogical tree and an inſcription, which records that he had 17 children (of which 15 were by his ſecond wife), 78 grand-children, and 102 great-grand-children. This tablet has been engraved. Mr. Lee's epitaph, which is printed in Aſhmole's Collections, has been removed or obliterated. It ſtates that he died in 1637, having been 53 years one of the principal burgeſſes of Abingdon, and five times mayor, and "that he had *in his life-time* iſſue from his loynes 200, lacking but three." In the nave is a braſs plate which covers the bones of Geffrey Barbour, the great benefactor of the town, who died April 21, 1417. They were removed from the abbey after the diſſolution. He had been bailiff of Briſtol, and was, at the time of his deceaſe, a merchant at Abingdon. At the ſouth end of the north aiſle is an altar tomb, in memory of John Royſe, founder of the grammar ſchool, who died in 1571. In the north aiſle, near the entrance, is a monument by Hickey, which was erected purſuant to the will of Mrs. Hawkins, who died in 1780, having bequeathed the ſum of 400l. for that purpoſe. It commemorates the deceaſed, her father, mother, and ſiſter;

[1] Perhaps Roger Amyce the elder, whoſe ſon of the ſame name was one of the firſt governors of Chriſt's hoſpital, in Abingdon.

and her lover, the Rev. Walter Hart, vice-principal of St. Mary Hall, in Oxford, (author of the life of Guſtavus Adolphus), who died in 1768, on the eve of their intended marriage. Mrs. Hawkins left money for preaching four annual ſermons, on ſtated days; one of which, the fifth of January, was the anniverſary of Mr. Hart's death.

The vicarage of St. Helen's is in the gift of the Crown. The pariſh regiſter begins in 1538. The following curious entry ſhews that the ſpring aſſizes were formerly held here,—"1569—buried the 3 day of Marche, Margery Towſeye, widdow, who was, at the aſſize then holden, quite of wichecrafte layde to her charge, and dyed this day in the ſtreete, ſodenlie as ſhe was going on her buſineſs."

There are meeting-houſes in this town for the Preſbyterians, Anabaptiſts, and Quakers. George Benſon, an eminent divine, was for ſome years miniſter[l] at that of the Preſbyterians, which has been eſtabliſhed many years.

In the year 1288, Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, built a chapel at Abingdon, on the ſpot where St. Edmund, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, was born[m]: wonderful miracles were reported to have been obſerved in this chapel, the year after it was built. It is ſuppoſed to have ſtood on the weſt ſide of St. Edmund's lane[n]. Robert Rich, brother of the archbiſhop, and author of his life, and his ſiſters, Margaret and Alice, ſucceſſively prioreſſes of Cateſby, and canonized as ſaints, were all natives of Abingdon[o]. At a later period Sir John Maſon before mentioned, and Sir Thomas Smith, ſecretary of the Latin tongue to King James I.[p] may be mentioned as eminent natives of this place. The late primate of Ireland, a diſtinguiſhed theologian, was born at Abingdon, in 1729, being the ſon of the rev. Joſeph Newcome, vicar of St. Helen's.

At a very early period there was at Abingdon a brotherhood, or fraternity[q], who, having erected a very handſome rood, or croſs, in the church of St. Helen, called themſelves the Brethren of the Holy Croſs. As early as the year 1389, they maintained a prieſt, and had two proctors choſen annually, to manage their affairs. It was by the exertions of the members of this community, that the bridges at Burford and Culhamford were built. In the year 1442, they were firſt incorporated by royal charter, and empowered to poſſeſs lands of 40l. *per annum*, yearly value, for the purpoſe of keeping in repair the road between Dorcheſter and Abingdon, and for the maintenance of thirteen poor men and women, and a chaplain to officiate in St. Helen's church. There were ſeven commiſſioners, or truſtees, who had the overſight of this fraternity; among whom were Sir John Golafre and

[l] Biograph. Brit. [m] Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria. [n] Kennet's Paroch. Antiquities, p. 313. [o] Fuller's Worthies. [p] Granger. [q] The whole account of this fraternity of the Holy Croſs is taken from Little's MS. partly in his own words.

Thomas

Thomas Chaucer, ſon of the poet. To this period is attributed the erection of the beautiful croſs, which ſtood formerly in the market-place, and which was demoliſhed by the parliamentary army in the civil war. Among the arms with which it was ornamented were thoſe of Sir John Golafre. This croſs was repaired in 1605, at the inſtance of Mr. Little, the hiſtorian of Abingdon, who himſelf gave 30l. towards it. Moſt of the principal gentry of the county were contributors. It is ſaid, that when the accommodation with the Scots was celebrated in this town, by order of parliament, in 1641, the 106th pſalm was ſung at the croſs by 2000 choiriſters[r]. Richard Symonds, an officer in King Charles's army, who was at Abingdon in May, 1644, deſcribes it as octagonal, and ſays, that it was adorned with three rows of ſtatues, conſiſting of Kings, Saints, and Biſhops[s]. A few days after Symonds was at Abingdon, this croſs, which Sir Edward Walker, in his hiſtorical diſcourſes, calls "the greateſt ornament of the place, being a goodly piece for beauty and antiquity, ſtanding upon pillars in the market-place," was ſawn down by the ſoldiers belonging to Waller's army[t]. There is a view of it among the paintings at the eaſt end of Chriſt's Hoſpital, which, though not well drawn, gives a pretty good idea of its form. To return to the account of the gild, or brotherhood:—it appears that, in 1457, they ſupported two chaplains, one of whom was called the rood prieſt, whoſe duty it was to pray for the benefactors to the rood; and the other, the bridge prieſt, who was to pray for the benefactors to the bridges and road. Their ſalary was 6l. 13s. 4d. each. About this time it appears, that "they made annually, on the 3d of May, being the day of the invention of the Holy Croſs, a very bountiful feaſt, unto which came many of the brethren and ſiſters of the ſociety. They ſpent, uſually, six calves, which, in thoſe days, coſt but 2s. 2d. a-piece; 16 lambs, which coſt 12d. a-piece; above 80 capons, which coſt 3d. a-piece; above 80 geeſe, which coſt 2½d. a-piece; 800 eggs, which coſt 5d. a hundred; many marrow-bones, much fruit and ſpice, great quantities of milk, cream, and flour (wheat was good cheap, being ſold for 12d. a quarter, in the 33d year of Henry VI.); beſides all this proviſion, they had much ſent them by tenants, and by the brethren and ſiſters of the ſaid fraternity. They had alſo, at their feaſts, 12 prieſts, to ſing a dirge, to whom they gave 4d. a-piece for their pains. They had 12 minſtrels; ſome from Coventry, and ſome from Maidenhead, to make them merry, to whom they gave 2s. 3d. a-piece, beſides their diet and horſe-meat. They had, likewiſe, at their feaſts, a ſolemn proceſſion, according to the blind ſuperſtition and zeal of thoſe dark days, pageants, plays, may-games, all to captivate the ſenſes of the zealous

[r] See Gough's Britiſh Topography, I. 164.
[s] Symonds's MSS. in the Britiſh Muſeum.
[t] Sir Edward Walker's Hiſtorical Diſcourſes, p. 13.

beholders, and to allure the people to the greater liberality; for they did not make their feaſts without profit, but thoſe that *ſat* at dinner paid one rate, and thoſe that, for want of room, did *ſtand*, paid another; ſo that they of the fraternity that governed the feaſt (who were commonly four in number), always made gain to the common ſtock, for public uſes. Their feaſts were kept a long time in Banbury Court, in Weſt St. Helen-Street; afterwards in a houſe of their own, given them by Mr. William Dyer, vicar of Bray, in Eaſt St. Helen-Street, commonly called the Brotherhood-feaſt-houſe, which is now, 1627, in the tenure of William Eyſton gent.[u]" King Richard III. granted the fraternity a new charter, and extended their licence of mortmain to 100l. *per annum*. Out of gratitude they took the part of that monarch. Their eſtates, which became forfeited to the ſucceſsful competitor for the crown, were reſtored in 1486, and a free pardon granted to the fraternity. In 1547, the gild was diſſolved, the rental of their eſtates being then 85l. 15s. 6d. *per annum*. King Edward VI. at the requeſt of Sir John Maſon, granted a new charter in 1553, to ſome of the principal inhabitants of the town, incorporating them by the name of the Governors of Chriſt's Hoſpital, which hoſpital had been built in 1446, in St. Helen's church-yard, by the diſſolved fraternity, for the reception of 13 poor perſons maintained by them. The new charter granted lands of the yearly value of 65l. 11s. (being part of the old endowment), for the repair of four bridges, the great or new bridge, Culham Bridge, Ock Bridge, and St. Helen's Bridge, with the roads between them, for the ſupport alſo of ſeven men and ſix women in the alms-houſes, and other poor and needy perſons in the town. King Charles II. extended their licence of mortmain to 100l. *per annum*. When the alms-houſes were firſt founded, the paupers who reſided in them were allowed one penny a-week each; in 1457, 4s. a-quarter. Upon the firſt endowment of the hoſpital, after the Reformation, their allowance was 8d. a-week each, 12d. on Eaſter-day, and 3l. 5s. among them yearly, for their liveries. In 1627 they had 2s. 6d. a-week each, and 6l. 10s. for their liveries. In 1718 a new building was erected, out of the hoſpital funds, in which 18 poor perſons are maintained; there are now 14 in the old hoſpital; they have all 6s. a-week each, and clothes once in two years. Thoſe on the old foundation have gardens, and are allowed fuel; the others none. The principal benefactors towards the repair of the bridges, and the maintenance of the alms people, at the time of the original eſtabliſhment, were Geffrey Barbour, Sir Peter Beſils [x], and Eleanor Lady St. Amand, heireſs of the St.

[u] Little's MS. [x] Both Geffrey Barbour and Sir Peter Beſils bequeathed large ſums of money for charitable uſes. Barbour, beſides his benefactions to the gild, gave 50 marks for the marriage of ten poor women,

St. Elen family. The firſt ſermon, in commemoration of benefactors, was preached by Archbiſhop Laud, before his promotion to the bench. The original hoſpital, built in 1446, of timber and plaſter, is ſtill ſtanding: on the front are ſome old paintings, with figures intended for Geffrey Barbour, King Edward VI. and Sir John Maſon, together with various allegorical devices, alluding to the duty of alms-giving. At the eaſt end is a rude repreſentation of the old croſs at Abingdon. In the hall are portraits of Geffrey Barbour, Sir Peter Beſils, King Edward VI. Sir John Maſon, Lionel Boſtock, whoſe family, deſcended from the Boſtocks of Cheſhire, reſided for ſeveral generations at a houſe near Abingdon, called Fitzharris[y], Thomas Teaſdale, founder of Pembroke College, and other benefactors. The two former are undoubtedly of a later age than the perſons they are ſaid to repreſent.

Leland ſpeaks of an ancient hoſpital and church, without the weſt gate, both dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt. The hoſpital, he ſays, was endowed by one of the abbots, for 12 poor perſons. This hoſpital ſtood where the play-ground of the free-ſchool now is; part of the chapel remains: the hoſpital, which was removed into the vineyards, was rebuilt in 1801, at the joint expence of the corporation and Bernard Bedwell eſq. The paupers in this hoſpital (four men and their wives) receive one ſhilling a-week each from the corporation, and one ſhilling from Mr. Fountain. There is another ancient hoſpital near St. Helen's church, rebuilt out of the funds of Chriſt's Hoſpital, in 1797, for ſix men and their wives, who receive one ſhilling a-week each, and a two-penny loaf.

Mr. Twitty, in 1707, gave the ſum of 1700l. to build and endow an alms-houſe for three poor aged men and three poor women. A benefaction of 200l. has ſince been added by Mr. Bedwell. This alms-houſe is in St. Helen's church-yard. The penſioners receive about four ſhillings a-week each, and they have clothes every other year.

John Royſe, in the year 1563, founded a free-ſchool in this town for 63 poor boys. Thomas Teaſdale, the firſt ſcholar on Royſe's foundation[z], gave by will the ſum of 5000l. to Baliol College, in Oxford, to purchaſe lands for the maintenance of ſeven fellows and ſix ſcholars, to be choſen from Abingdon ſchool, by the maſter and governors of Chriſt's Hoſpital. Baliol College having declined the bequeſt, it

women, all his wood and coals to be divided among his poor neighbours, the wood by the load, and the coals by the quarter; and the reſidue of his eſtate for the relief of the poor, and the repair of highways. Sir Peter Beſils gave money, and divers fair manors and lordſhips in charity and portions of money, to marry maidens. He founded a college of White Monks at Oxford, and gave 600l. to repair any wrong that he, or any of his anceſtors, had done to any man, and what was not claimed on that ſcore to be given to the poor. Little's MS. from which all the particulars relating to the ancient ſtate of the hoſpital are taken.

[y] Berkſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum. [z] Little's MS.

was

was given to Pembroke College, which was founded in 1624, principally with a view to this benefaction; Richard Wightwick, rector of eaſt Illey and Hampſted-Norris, who is eſteemed the joint founder, having only endowed it with three fellowſhips and four ſcholarſhips. At preſent there are very few boys in the ſchool at Abingdon, who are on the foundation. It has been many years a flouriſhing ſeminary. Thomas Godwin, the learned author of the Roman and Jewiſh antiquities, was head-maſter of this ſchool. Among perſons of eminence, who have received their education here, may be reckoned Lord Chief Juſtice Holt, Dr. Newcome, the late primate of Ireland, already mentioned as a native of this town, the late Rev. Richard Graves, author of the Spiritual Quixote and many other works; and, among living characters, the Rev. Thomas Wintle, rector of Brightwell, the able tranſlator of the Prophet Daniel; and William Holwell, the editor of Dionyſius Halicarnaſſeus.

A perſon of the name of Bennet left a benefaction for the education of ſix poor boys, who are inſtructed by the uſher of Royſe's ſchool.

ALDERMASTON, in the hundred of Theale, lies ſouth of the Kennet, on the borders of Hampſhire, eight miles S. E. of Newbury, and about 12 S. W. of Reading.

The royal army, under the command of Colonel Gage, on its route from Oxford to Baſing Houſe, in 1644, halted at this village; on their return, finding the enemy in poſſeſſion of the place, they went by another road[a]. The Earl of Eſſex was with his army at Aldermaſton, in the month of October, the ſame year, and marched thence by way of Padworth and Bucklebury Heath, to Newbury[b], immediately before the ſecond battle which was fought near that town. The Earl of Mancheſter lay at Sir Humphrey Foſter's houſe, the 17th of October, on his route from Reading to Newbury[c].

The manor of Aldermaſton is ſaid to have been given to Richard Achard, by King Henry I.[d] It certainly was in the poſſeſſion of one of that family and name, ſo early as the year 1229[e], and continued to belong to his deſcendants in the male line, till about the year 1358, when it paſſed by marriage to the De la Mares[f], and from them about 1500 to the Forſters. Sir George Forſter, who was ſheriff of Berkſhire and Oxfordſhire in 1514, married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of John De la Mare eſq. His father, Humphrey Forſter, who ſerved the office of ſheriff for the ſame counties in 1472, is deſcribed by Fuller as of Aldermaſton:

[a] Clarendon's Hiſt. of the Rebellion, 8vo. II. 529. 531. [b] Heath's Chronicle, p. 64. [c] Coates's Hiſtory of Reading, p. 42. [d] Leland. [e] Col. Rot. 13 Hen. III. [f] Eſch. Edw. III.

it appears more probable that he was of Harpeden, in Oxfordſhire, which was the family ſeat before they became connected with Aldermaſton. Sir Humphrey Forſter, ſon of Sir George, was one of the eſquires of the body to King Henry VIII. His deſcendant, Sir Humphrey, was honoured with a viſit from Queen Elizabeth in 1601; in 1620 he was created a baronet. William Lord Stawell, having married Elizabeth, only daughter of William Pert eſq. ſole heireſs, in right of her mother, of Sir Humphrey Forſter bart. by whoſe death the title became extinct in 1711, became poſſeſſed of this manor, which paſſed to Ralph Congreve eſq. in conſequence of his marriage with Charlotte, only ſurviving child of Lord Stawell above mentioned, by his wife Elizabeth. Aldermaſton is now the property of William Congreve eſq. a collateral relation of Ralph Congreve above mentioned, who died without iſſue.

Aldermaſton-houſe, the ſeat of Mr. Congreve, was almoſt wholly rebuilt by Sir Humphrey Forſter in 1636. A large ſtack of chimneys in brick-work, variouſly ornamented, evidently exhibits the remains of a much more ancient manſion. The windows of the hall, and ſome other rooms, are decorated with coats of arms in ſtained glaſs, repreſenting the matches of the families of Achard, De la Mare, and Forſter. The hall is very lofty, and is ſurrounded by a ſpacious gallery. The houſe having been lately fitted up, and all the ornaments reſtored as they were in 1636, exhibits a curious ſpecimen of the ſtyle of decoration then in uſe.

In the pariſh church are ſeveral monuments of the Forſter family, particularly an altar tomb of alabaſter, with the figures of Sir George Forſter, who died in 1526, and his wife Elizabeth, heireſs of the De la Mares; round the ſides, under Gothic canopies, are ſmall figures of eleven ſons in armour, and eight daughters, with the angular head-dreſſes of that time. The tomb of one of the ancient family of Achard is denoted by the arms, but the inſcription is gone.

The benefice of this pariſh, which lies in the deanery of Reading, has been called a vicarage, but improperly; there is no income whatever annexed to it, and the miniſter has been appointed, ever ſince the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by the lord of the manor, without any particular form, and without receiving inſtitution from the biſhop. The lord of the manor has, ever ſince that period, received all the tythes, both great and ſmall, which were formerly appropriated to the priory of Sherbourn, paying a ſmall quit-rent to Queen's College, in Oxford[s]. It is erroneouſly ſtated in Bacon's *Liber Regis*, that the patronage of the *Vicarage*, as it is there called, is veſted in that college.

[s] From the information of the Rev. Mr. Bird, the late miniſter.

Robert Dixon, miniſter of this pariſh in 1706, built four alms-houſes for poor widows.

There are three annual fairs at Aldermaſton, May 6, July 7, and Oct. 11.

ALDWORTH, in the hundred of Compton, and deanery of Newbury, lies in a very retired ſituation, about five miles from Market-Ilſley; about 11 miles from Newbury, by way of Hampſted-Norris; about nine miles from Wallingford; and about 12 from Reading, by way of Streatley. The manor of Aldworth, which, at the taking of the Norman Survey, had belonged to Theodoric the goldſmith, was conveyed in 1276, by Thomas de Clare, to Robert de Muſgros, and confirmed to him and his heirs the ſame year, by the royal charter[h]. Hawiſe, daughter and heir of this Robert, brought it in marriage to the noble family of Ferrars, of Chartley[i], together with the manor of Hampſted-Norris, formerly called Hampſted-Ferrars, and other eſtates in this neighbourhood. There was another manor in Aldworth, which, with that of De la Beche, in the ſame pariſh, belonged, as early as the reign of Edward II. to the De la Beches. Edmund De la Beche, Archdeacon of Berks, who was of this family, was committed to Pomfret Caſtle in 1322, for being concerned in the eſcape of Maurice Lord Berkeley, and Lord Audley, from Wallingford[k]. Sir Nicholas De la Beche had the ſuperintendance of the Black Prince's education, and was afterwards lieutenant of the Tower[l]. In 1338, he had the king's licence to make a caſtle of his manſion, called De la Beche, in this pariſh[m]. In 1340, King Edward III. having returned from France, ſorely incenſed againſt thoſe whom he had entruſted with the care of levying money in his abſence, for not making him timely remittances, diſplaced ſome of his principal miniſters, and committed ſeveral of the judges, and Sir Nicholas De la Beche, to the Tower[n]. De la Beche was ſoon reſtored to favour, was employed the following year in the wars of Britany, ſummoned to Parliament as a baron in 1342; and in 1343 was made ſeneſchal of Gaſcony[o]. He died in 1347, without iſſue. Margaret, his widow, married Sir Thomas Arderne, and reſided at another ſeat of the family, Beaumys Caſtle, near Reading; from whence ſhe was forcibly carried away by John de Dalton, and his accomplices, in 1349[p]. It has been ſaid, that the heireſs of the De la Beches, of Aldworth, married into the Whitlock family[q]; but this match appears to have applied to a branch of the De la Beches, which continued much later in the male line[r]. The Aldworth eſtates, immediately on the death of Nicholas

[h] Cart. 4 Edw. I. [i] Dugdale. [k] Holinſhed. [l] Holinſhed and Dugdale. [m] Pat. 12 Edw. III. [n] Holinſhed. [o] Dugdale. [p] See Rot. II. 126. and Kennet's Parochial Antiquities. p. 461, 462. [q] See Aſhmole's Collections. [r] John Whitlock, anceſtor of Sir James and Sir Bulſtrode Whitlock, married Agnes, daughter and heir

Nicholas Lord De la Beche, paſſed to the ſiſters of John De la Beche, who preceded Nicholas in the poſſeſſion of thoſe eſtates, and died ſeiſed of them in 1328[s]. It is probable, that he was an elder brother. One of theſe co-heireſſes appears to have married an anceſtor of the Danvers family. Joan, the elder, married Sir Andrew Sackville, anceſtor of the Duke of Dorſet, and had by him a ſon of the ſame name[t], who poſſeſſed part of the property of the De la Beches, the whole of which, as far as relates to Aldworth, ſeems to have centered in Sir Thomas Langford, and Joan his wife, purſuant to an entail in a family ſettlement[u]; it is not improbable, that this Joan was the elder of the above-mentioned co-heireſſes, who, after the death of Sir Andrew Sackville, might have married Sir Thomas Langford. Several ancient monuments in the pariſh church[x], are generally ſuppoſed to have been erected in memory of the De la Beches. Capt. Symonds, who viſited Aldworth church in 1644, ſays, that Mr. Grace, who was then vicar, informed him, that an altar tomb in the middle of the church, on which are the figures, in braſs, of a perſon in armour, and his lady, was that of Nicholas Lord De la Beche, and that a pedigree of the family, fairly written on parchment, formerly hung at the eaſt end of the ſouth aiſle; but that when Queen Elizabeth viſited Aldworth, in one of her progreſſes, the Earl of Leiceſter took it down to ſhew her Majeſty, and it was never replaced[y]. Sir Thomas Langford, above mentioned, died in 1391[z], and his deſcendants, ſeveral of whom ſerved the office of ſheriff, continued at Aldworth till 1509, when John Langford eſq. died ſeiſed of the manors of Aldworth and De la Beche, having covenanted that Ann, his only child, then nine years of age, ſhould, when ſhe came to years of diſcretion, marry either Walter, ſon and heir of Henry Smith, or Thomas, ſon and heir of John Spencer[a]: perhaps death relieved her from making the choice: it does not appear, at leaſt from records, that the manor of Aldworth, or any of the other Berkſhire eſtates which belonged to the Langfords, were ever in the families of Smith or Spencer. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the manor of Aldworth was the property of Sir John Norris, from whom it deſcended to the Berties. In 1756, it was purchaſed of the Earl of Abingdon, by the father of the preſent proprietor, Richard Palmer eſq. of Sunning. There are no remains of De la Beche Caſtle. Its ſite, now called Beche Farm, is the property of Mr. Charles Stevens, of Peaſemore.

heir of Robert De la Beche, about the year 1454, Wm. Whitlock, firſt Couſin of Sir James Whitlock, was lord of the manor of Beeches, near Wokingham, ſo called from this family. Pedigree of Whitlock, communicated by Ralph Bigland eſq. Norroy King of Arms.

[s] Eſch. 9 Edw. II. [t] Collins. [u] See Eſch. 44 Edw. III. under the name of De la Beche. [x] See an account of theſe monuments, p. 208. [y] Symonds's MS. Notes in the Britiſh Muſeum. [z] Eſch. 14 Rich. II. [a] Eſch. 1 Hen. VIII.

The rectory of Aldworth was appropriated to the priory of Bromhale, in 1307. It now belongs to the maſter and ſcholars of St. John's College, in Cambridge, who are patrons of the vicarage. The vicar enjoys a beneficial leaſe of the great tythes under the college.

APPLETON, in the hundred of Ock, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about five miles to the ſouth-weſt of Oxford. The manor which had belonged to Robert de Stokes, was, in 1308, granted to Giles de la Mote, Groom of the King's Chambers [b]. The more early part of its hiſtory is entirely enveloped in obſcurity, which is much to be regretted, as the manor-houſe, which ſtill exiſts, is undoubtedly of a more ancient date, and exhibits a very rare ſpecimen of a private manſion of ſo remote a period [c]. From the De la Motes, the manor of Appleton paſſed, by female heirs, to the families of Fitzwarren, Caſton, and Petyt [d]. It was afterwards in the Fettiplaces. Sir John Fettiplace ſold it, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to the Hanleys, of whom, before the middle of the 17th century, it was purchaſed by the anceſtors of Robert Southby eſq. the preſent proprietor, who reſides in the ancient manſion above mentioned, which ſtands near the church.

The manor of Tinteynes in this pariſh, which paſſed, by a female heir, from the family of Beſils, of the adjoining pariſh of Beſils-Legh, to the Fettiplaces [e], was purchaſed a few years ago, by Mr. Southby, of Mr. Cook, who bought it of the Fettiplace family. There appears to have been formerly a conſiderable manſion at Tinteynes, within a moated ſite.

The manor of Eton, in this pariſh, commonly called Eton *juxta* Cumner, which belonged formerly to the family of St. Hilary, paſſed, by a female heir, to Aylmer, Lord St. Amand, was afterwards the property of Sir John Golafre [f]; and, at a later period, of Sir Thomas White, who gave it to his newly-founded college of St. John the Baptiſt, in Oxford.

In the pariſh church at Appleton, is a handſome monument of Sir John Fettiplace, who died in 1593, with his effigies in armour, and the tomb of John Goodryngton, with the figure in braſs of a ſhrouded ſkeleton. He died in 1518, and his widow became a nun at Syon. There are ſeveral memorials for the family of Southby. The preſident and ſcholars of Magdalen College, in Oxford, are patrons of the rectory.

ARBORFIELD, in the hundred of Sunning, is ſituated about four miles ſouth-weſt of Wokingham, and about five miles ſouth-eaſt of Reading. It is probable that

[b] Pat. 1 Edw. II. [c] See p. 212. [d] See Eſch. 7 Edw. IV. [e] Eſch. 7 Hen. VIII.
[f] See Eſch. 4 Hen. IV. & 20 Hen. VI.

the

DOOR-WAY OF APPLETON MANOR-HOUSE.

the manor, which lies within the manor of Sunning, belonged formerly to the Bullocks, of this place; an ancient family, ſeveral of whom ſerved the office of ſheriff in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries. One of them is called, in their pedigree, Hugh with the brazen hand[g]. In the early part of the 17th century, this manor was in the Standens. William Standen eſq. of Arborfield, was ſheriff of the county in 1615. Edward Standen, the laſt heir male of this family, was the perſon alluded to in the well-known ballad of Molly Mogg of the Roſe[h]. He died about the year 1730, when his eſtates devolved on his heir, Richard Aldworth eſq. father of the preſent Lord Braybroke, then a minor, and were ſold by his guardian, under an act of Parliament (4 Geo. II.) to Pelſant Reeves, father of John Reeves eſq. the preſent proprietor. There is a handſome monument for Pelſant Reeves eſq. in the pariſh church. The manor-houſe, an old manſion near the church, built by the Standens, is now occupied by Mr. Wiſdom Barrett.

Lord Braybroke is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading; the advowſon was reſerved when the manor was ſold by his father's guardian. This pariſh contains about 1300 acres.

ARDINGTON, in the hundred of Wanting, and deanery of Abingdon, is a ſmall village, about two miles eaſt of Wantage. The manor was anciently parcel of the barony of St. Walery. Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, died ſeiſed of it in 1272[i]. It was afterwards in the Longeſpees and Lacys, Earls of Saliſbury and Lincoln[k]; from the latter it paſſed to the Cobhams, before the year 1326[l]. St. John de Cobham gave it to King Edw. III. in 1364, reſerving a life intereſt in it[m]. In 1368, the king beſtowed the manor of Ardington, deſcribed as having then lately belonged to his aunt, Mary Counteſs-Marſhall[n], on his favourite Alice Perrers[o]. It became forfeited upon her attainder, which took place after the King's death, and was granted to John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, brother of King Richard II[p]. Reverting to the crown, after the death of his ſon, John Duke of Exeter, it was given, in 1483, to Richard Lord Grey, the Queen's ſon, and his iſſue male[q]. It is now the property of William Wiſeman Clarke eſq. whoſe anceſtors have poſſeſſed it more than two centuries. In the pariſh church is the monument of Sir Edward Clarke, who was ſheriff of the county in 1626, and his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Temple bart. The great tythes were appropriated

[g] Berkſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum. [h] From the information of the preſent rector, Mr. Hodgkinſon. [i] Eſch. 56 Hen. III. [k] Dugdale's Baronage. [l] Eſch. 19 Edw. II. [m] Pat. 38 Edw. III. [n] Mary Brotherton, Counteſs of Norfolk, and Counteſs-Marſhall, was relict of Ralph de Cobham. See Eſch. 36 Edw. III. [o] Pat. 42 Edw. III. [p] Pat. 8 Ric. II. See another grant to the ſame Earl, Pat. 12 R. II. [q] Pat. 22 Edw. IV.

to Oſeney Abbey; they are now held under Chriſt's Church College, in Oxford, by Mr. Clarke. The vicarage is in the gift of that college.

ASHAMPSTED, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about nine miles north-eaſt of Newbury, and about eleven north-weſt of Reading. In 1329 Sir Gilbert de Ellesfeld gave lands to King Edward III. for the manor of Aſhampſted, and died ſeiſed of it in 1344[r]. It was afterwards in the Langfords[s], and is now the property of Robert Hopkins eſq. of Tidmarſh, by a late purchaſe from the family of Gill, who had been in poſſeſſion of it about forty years.

Thomas de Coleſhill died ſeiſed of the manor of the Wyle, in Aſhampſted, in the year 1352[t].

The manor of Hartridge, in this pariſh, is ſuppoſed to be the ſame eſtate which was anciently held by the tenure of keeping a Goſs-hawk for the King[u]. This eſtate belonged, at a remote period, to a family of the ſame name, and was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Percy, Romaine, and Wayte[x]. The manor of Hartridge is now the property of Robert Baker eſq.

The parochial chapel of Aſhampſted is annexed to the vicarage of Baſilden. The impropriate rectory was, in 1619, the property of Sir William Kingſmill. It was afterwards in the family of Sayer, and paſſed by a female heir to the Gills, of whom it was lately purchaſed by Mr. Hopkins.

ASHBURY, in the hundred of Shrivenham, and deanery of Abingdon, lies on the borders of Wiltſhire, about ten miles weſt of Wantage, about ſix north-weſt of Lambourn, and about eight ſouth of Faringdon. The manor of Aſhbury was given by King Edred, to the monaſtery of Glaſtonbury[y]: after the diſſolution it was granted by King Henry VIII. (in 1544) to the family of Eſſex, of whom it was purchaſed in 1625, by Sir William Craven, afterwards Lord Craven, anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, the Earl of Craven, who has a ſeat at Aſhdown Park, in this pariſh.

The manor of Edwinſtone or Idſtone, has, from time immemorial, paſſed with that of Aſhbury. The manor of Ordeſtone or Odſtone, was, as early as the year 1518, in the family of Rogers[z], from whom it paſſed by marriage to that of Eſſex. In the year 1598 it was ſold by Sir William Eſſex, to Sir Edward Fiſher, and by the latter in 1626 to Sir William Craven. It now belongs to the Earl of Craven, who has a fourth manor in this pariſh, called Kingſton-Winſlow. *Idſtone*, *Odſtone*, and *Kingſton-Winſlow*, are hamlets to Aſhbury.

[r] Eſch. 18 Edw. III. The manor is called in the Record, Yeſhampſted. [s] Eſch. Ric. II. &c. [t] Eſch. 26 Edw. III. [u] Blount's Jocular Tenures. [x] Eſch. Edw. I. and Hen. VI. [y] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [z] Eſch. 9 Hen. VIII.

The

The biſhop of Bath and Wells is patron of the ſinecure rectory. Upon a vacancy in the vicarage, the rector appoints one out of three perſons, nominated by the preſident and ſcholars of Magdalen College, in Oxford. The pariſh has been incloſed, under an act of parliament, paſſed in 1770, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the rector and vicar, in lieu of tithes; and rents in lieu of tithes of the old incloſures. In the act of parliament, the preſident and ſcholars of Magdalen College are ſtated to be patrons of the vicarage.

ASTON-THOROLD or TIROLD, in the hundred of Moreton and deanery of Abingdon, lies about five miles ſouth-weſt of Wallingford, and about the ſame diſtance north-eaſt of Ilſley. It is the *Eſtone* or Eaſt-town of Domeſday, and certainly not the ſite of the celebrated battle between the Danes and Saxons, which was fought at Æſceſdune. A manor in this pariſh, which belonged to the abbey of Noion, in Normandy[a]; is ſuppoſed to have been granted after the ſuppreſſion of alien priories, to the De la Poles, Dukes of Suffolk, who were poſſeſſed of it in 1495[b]. Another manor which had belonged to the abbey of Pratell, in Normandy, was granted by King Henry V. in 1413, to the priory of Witham, in Somerſetſhire. The manor of Aſton-Tirold, compriſing, probably, both theſe eſtates, was given by Sir Ralph Sadler, to King Edward VI. in 1547. In the 17th century it was in the Sambourns, afterwards in moieties, between the families of Hatton and White; one moiety is now the property of Thomas Fuller eſq. the other of Meſſrs. Joſeph and John Fuller.

The preſident and ſcholars of St. Mary Magdalen College, Oxford, are patrons of the rectory. The pariſh was incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1742.

AVINGTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newbury, lies two miles and a half to the ſouth-eaſt of Hungerford. The manor belonged to the Longeſpees, Earls of Saliſbury, from whom it paſſed ſucceſſively by female heirs to the Lacys, Earls of Lincoln, and the Lords Strange of Knockin[c]. It is probable, that at a later period it was in the families of Coventry and Choke. Rich Choke married the heireſs of the Coventrys of Avington[d]; his grandſon, Francis, was knighted in 1643[e]. Some years ago, the manor of Avington was in the family of Jones, of Ramſbury, in Wiltſhire. William Langham eſq. younger brother of the late Sir James Langham bart. having married the heireſs of that family, took the name of Jones, and was created a baronet. Dying without iſſue, Avington, with ſeveral other Berkſhire manors, devolved, upon the death of his widow, to Sir Francis Burdett bart. who is the preſent proprietor.

[a] See Pat. 6 John. [b] Rot. Parl. VI. p. 475. [c] Dugdale's Baronage. [d] Berkſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum. [e] Ant. Wood.

In the pariſh church, which exhibits a very curious ſpecimen of Saxon architecture, and has a very ſingular font of rude workmanſhip[f], are ſome memorials of the family of James, of Denford. Sir Francis Burdett is patron of the rectory.

BARKHAM, in the hundred of Charlton, lies two miles and a half ſouth-weſt of Wokingham, and about ſeven ſouth-eaſt of Reading. The manor is mentioned, in ſome ancient records, as an appendage to Finchampſted[g]. In the 17th century it was in the Standens of Arborfield[h]; afterwards in the Pitts, of Kingſton, in Dorſetſhire, and in the Fonnereaus: it was purchaſed of the latter, by the late Hon. Admiral Leveſon Gower, and is now the property of his ſon, Colonel Leveſon Gower, of Bill-Hill. Colonel Gower is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading. The Rev. David Davies, the preſent incumbent, is author of a work, entitled "The Caſe of Labourers in Huſbandry ſtated and conſidered."

BARRINGTON lies about three miles from Burford, near the road to Northleach. Though ſeveral miles diſtant from the reſt of the county, about half of the village and pariſh is ſituated within an inſulated part of Berkſhire; the church being in Glouceſterſhire, it will be treated of in the deſcription of that county.

BASILDEN, or BASILDON, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about 8 miles from Reading, on the road to Wallingford. It had formerly a weekly market granted by King Edward II. in 1309, together with a fair at the feſtival of St. Barnabas[i]. A moiety of the manor was ſucceſſively in the families of Boteler, St. Amand, and Braybroke[k]; the other moiety in the De la Beches and Langfords[l]. Theſe moieties became afterwards united. The manor of Baſilden was bequeathed by Rachael, Counteſs of Bath[m], to her nephew, Sir Henry Fane K. B. whoſe ſon was, in 1718, created Viſcount Fane of the kingdom of Ireland. Baſilden-park continued to be the ſeat of this noble family till the death of the laſt Lord Fane, in or about the year 1766, not long after which it was purchaſed of his only ſurviving ſiſters, the late Counteſs of Sandwich and the Counteſs de Salis, by Francis Sykes eſq. who built a noble manſion at Baſilden-park from the deſigns of Mr. Carr of York. Mr. Sykes was created a baronet in 1782. Upon his death, in 1804, Baſilden-park devolved to his ſon, Sir Francis William Sykes bart. who

[f] See p. 204 and 207. [g] See Nomina Villarum, anno 1316, in the Britiſh Muſeum.
[h] Aſhmole. [i] Cart. 2 Edw. II. [k] Cart. 2 Edw. II. Clauſ. 25 Edw. III. & Eſch. 4 Henry IV.
[l] Eſch. Edw. III. Ric. II. &c. [m] Second daughter of Francis, Earl of Weſtmorland; married firſt, to Henry Bouchier, Earl of Bath, afterwards to the Earl of Middleſex.

ſurvived

ſurvived him only a few months; being ſucceeded in his title and eſtates by his ſon Francis, a minor.

Thomas Yonge, the eldeſt ſon of Thomas Yonge, one of the juſtices of the Common Pleas in the reign of Edward IV. and anceſtor of Sir George Yonge bart. ſettled at Baſilden[n]. His deſcendant, Roger Yonge eſq. who died, in 1684, at the age of 96, "having been 60 years in the commiſſion of the peace," lies buried in Baſilden church. When the Norman Survey was taken, there were two churches at Baſilden. It is probable that one of them was at Upper-Baſilden, about two miles from the preſent pariſh church. The great tithes were formerly appropriated to the abbot and convent of Lyra, and afterwards to the college of Shotteſbrooke[o]; they are now the property of Sir Francis Sykes; he is patron alſo of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Wallingford. Baſilden Heath was incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1744.

Beedon, formerly Budon, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about 8 miles from Newbury, on the road to Oxford, and 2 miles and a half from Ilſley. It was formerly one of the ſeats of the Liſle family. Alice de Liſle had the royal licence to make a park at Beedon in 1336[p]. It afterwards paſſed, by marriage, to the Berkeleys, and was probably one of the eſtates alienated from that noble family by the Marquis of Berkeley. This manor has been in the family of Reade for more than two centuries, and is now the property of the dowager Lady Reade, together with the manor of *Stanmore*, a hamlet of this pariſh, and the impropriate tithes, which formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. She is alſo patroneſs of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury. Beedon church was formerly a chapel to Farnborough.

Beenham, in the hundred and deanery of Reading, lies on the north ſide of the Bath road, about 8 miles from Newbury, and about 10 from Reading. The manor belongs to the Rev. Sir Charles Rich bart. who purchaſed it in 1793; previouſly to which it had been, for a conſiderable time, in the Marquis of Annandale's family. The Rev. Mr. Boſtock, elder brother of Sir Charles Rich, has a ſeat in this pariſh, which he inherited from the Hopſons. The Rev. Thomas Stackhouſe, author of the Hiſtory of the Bible and the Body of Divinity, was vicar of Beenham, and lies buried in the pariſh church, where is a tablet to his memory with the following inſcription: "Juxta reconditum eſt quod mortale fuit Thomæ Stackhouſe, A. M. hujus eccleſiæ per annos 19 vicarii, qui pro Chriſtianâ

[n] Kimber's Baronetage. [o] See Leland's Itinerary, vol. v. p. 129. [p] Cart. 10 Edw. III.

fide

fide ſtrenuus admodum propugnator non ſine gloriâ militavit; qui plus ſcire volunt ſcripta ſua conſulant. Ex hâc vitâ, gratâ alterius vice corpore ſuo ſolutus emigravit Octobris Idibus A. S. 1752. Ætatis ſuæ 72." There are memorials in the pariſh church for the Hopſons and Beringtons. The great tythes, which were appropriated to the abbey of Reading, were purchaſed by Sir Charles Rich of Philip Lybbe Powys eſq. in 1802. Mrs. Mary Stevens, widow of the late incumbent, is patroneſs of the vicarage.

Besils-Legh, in the hundred of Hormer and deanery of Abingdon, lies about 5 miles to the ſouth-weſt of Oxford on the road to Faringdon. The manor belonged anciently to the family of Legh [q], from whom it paſſed, by a female heir, to that of Beſils. On the death of William Beſils eſq. in 1516, the manor of Beſils-Legh devolved to Edmund Fettiplace, who married Elizabeth, his daughter and ſole heir [r]. William Lenthall, ſpeaker of the long parliament, purchaſed Beſils-Legh of the Fettiplaces, and occaſionally reſided there; his ſon, Sir John Lenthall, was governor of Windſor caſtle under Cromwell. He died in 1681, and lies buried at Beſils-Legh, where are a few other memorials of the family. In the manor-houſe at this place, now pulled down, was formerly the celebrated picture of Sir Thomas More's family, now at the priory in Burford, the ſeat of John Lenthall eſq. who is lord of the manor of Beſils-Legh and patron of the rectory.

Binfield, in the hundred of Cookham, and deanery of Reading, is ſituated in Windſor foreſt about three miles north-eaſt of Wokingham, and nearly 11 ſouth-weſt of Windſor. The manor was, in 1548, ſurrendered by Lord Sandys to King Edward VI. and has ever ſince been in the crown. There are three inferior manors in the pariſh, the moſt extenſive of which is the property of Claude Ruſſel eſq. who has a ſeat at Binfield. This eſtate, deſcribed as the manor of Binfield, was purchaſed, in 1595, of the Staffords of Bradfield, by John Dancaſtle eſq. whoſe deſcendant of the ſame name conveyed it, in 1754, to William Pitt eſq. uncle of the preſent William Moreton Pitt eſq. by whom it was ſold, under an act of parliament in 1778, to Buckworth Herne eſq. By ſubſequent alienations it paſſed through the hands of William Coxe eſq. and Lord Kinnaird; of the latter it was purchaſed, in 1795, by the preſent proprietor. A ſecond manor, called Depers, or Diaper, was ſome time ago the property of Mr. Webb, afterwards of Col. Hawley, and now of Mr. Zechariah Boult. The

[q] Thomas de Legh was lord of the manor in 1316. See Nomina Villarum, Harl. MSS. No. 6281.
[r] Eſch. 7 Hen. VIII.

third

The third, called Buckhurſt, belongs to Mr. Charles Cove, and was ſome time ago the property of Robert Southey eſq.

Binfield is generally ſaid to have been the birth-place of Pope; but Dr. Wilſon, the late rector, aſcertained that he did not come there till he was ſix years of age. It is certain that this celebrated poet ſpent the early part of his life in this village; that the ſurrounding ſcenery of Windſor foreſt ſuggeſted ſome of the firſt effuſions of his muſe, and that he continued to reſide at Binfield till he purchaſed the villa at Twickenham, which ſtill goes by his name. The ſite of Pope's houſe at Binfield is now the reſidence of Thomas Neate eſq.

There are ſeveral elegant villas at this place, the beauty of the ſituation, its vicinity to Windſor, and ready acceſs to the metropolis, having been ſtrong inducements to perſons of fortune to fix themſelves in ſo deſirable a ſpot. The moſt conſpicuous is that of Oneſiphorus Elliot Elliot eſq.

In the pariſh church are memorials of the family of Blount of Sodington, baronets; and of the families of Dancaſtle and Lee, the latter of whom, during a conſiderable part of the laſt two centuries, inhabited an old manſion, now pulled down, which ſtood near the eighth mile ſtone on the road to Windſor. After the extinction of the Lee family, it came by inheritance to Henry, Earl of Stirling, Secretary of State for Scotland, who reſided at Binfield, and was buried there in 1739; as appears by his tomb in the chancel. The more modern monuments of note are thoſe of Admiral Sir Edward Vernon, who commanded the Britiſh fleet at the taking of Pondicherry, and died in 1794; and of the celebrated female hiſtorian Catharine Macauley, who, after her marriage with a ſecond huſband, called herſelf Macauley Graham: ſhe is deſcribed by that name on her monument, which is ornamented with her portrait on a medallion. Mrs. Macauley Graham died, in 1791, at Binfield, where ſhe reſided during the latter part of her life. The rectory of Binfield is in the gift of the crown.

BISHAM, anciently BISTEHAM or BUSTLEHAM, in the hundred of Barnerſh and deanery of Reading, lies 4 miles and a half north-weſt of Maidenhead, and not quite a mile from Great Marlow in Buckinghamſhire, on the oppoſite ſide of the river.

The manor was given by William the Conqueror to Henry de Ferrars; whoſe grandſon, Robert Earl Ferrars, gave it, in the reign of King Stephen, to the Knights Templars, who are ſaid to have had a preceptory there[s]. After the ſuppreſſion of that order, it was ſucceſſively in the poſſeſſion of Thomas, Earl

[s] Leland.

of Lancaſter [t], Hugh le Deſpencer [u], and Eubulo L'Eſtrange [x]. In 1335, it was granted by king Edward III. to William Montacute, Earl of Saliſbury [y], who, two years afterwards, procured the royal licence for founding a monaſtery at Biſham, for canons regular of the order of St. Auſtin, and endowing it with lands of 300l. *per ann.* [z] Within the walls of this convent were interred the following noble perſons: William, Earl of Saliſbury, ſon of the founder, who diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the battle of Poictiers [a]; John, Earl of Saliſbury, who, confederating againſt King Henry IV. was ſlain at Cirenceſter in 1401 [b]; Thomas, Earl of Saliſbury, the famed hero of Henry the Fifth's reign, who loſt his life at the ſiege of Orleans in 1428 [c]; Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury and Warwick, who was beheaded at York, in 1460, for his adherence to the houſe of Lancaſter [d]; Richard Neville, the great Earl of Warwick and Saliſbury, and his brother John, Marquis of Mountague, who both fell at the battle of Barnet, 1470 [e]; and the unfortunate Edward Plantagenet, Earl of Warwick, ſon of the Duke of Clarence [f], who, bred up from his cradle in priſon, was beheaded in 1499 for attempting to taſte the ſweets of liberty. The founder is ſaid to have been buried at the White Friars [g]; his ſon directed, by his will, that a monument ſhould be erected to his memory at Biſham [h]. Moſt of the above-mentioned illuſtrious characters had ſplendid monuments in the conventual church, but theſe were all deſtroyed after the diſſolution of the abbey, without regard to the rank or famed exploits of the deceaſed, nor even excepting the tomb of Saliſbury, "the mirror of all martial men—who in thirteen battles overcame—and firſt trained Henry V. to the wars [i]."

The priory of Biſham was ſurrendered to the king at the time of the diſſolution of the ſmaller monaſteries in 1536, although it does not ſeem to have fallen under the deſcription of thoſe to which the act of parliament extended, for its rental amounted to 285l. 11s. 0d.½ clear yearly value. The next year the king reſtored the convent, increaſing its poſſeſſions with the lands of the abbey of Chertſey, and the diſſolved priories of Ankerwyke, Little Marlow, and Medmenham, and changing its eſtabliſhment to an abbot and 13 monks of the Benedictine order [k]. The general diſſolution of monaſteries happened ſoon afterwards, when its revenues were eſtimated at 661l. 14s. 9d. *per ann.* William Barlow, who was prior of Biſham at the firſt ſurrender in 1536, was made biſhop of St. Aſaph that year, and

[t] See Pat. 15 E. II. [u] Ibid. [x] Pat. 8 Edw. III. [y] Pat. 9 Edw. III. [z] Pat. 11 Edw. III. [a] Dugdale. [b] His body was firſt buried in the abbey at Cirenceſter, whence it was removed to Biſham by Maud his widow. See Dugdale's Baronage, and the Monaſticon. [c] Brooke's Catalogue of Nobility. [d] He was firſt buried at Pomfret, but afterwards removed to Biſham. See Brooke's Catalogue of Nobility. [e] Dugdale's Baronage. [f] Brooke's Catalogue of Nobility. [g] See Dugdale. [h] Ibid. [i] Shakſpeare. [k] Magna Britannia.

was

was ſucceſſively tranſlated to St. David's, Bath and Wells, and Chicheſter. He married after the Reformation; and it is remarkable that he had five daughters, who were all married to biſhops[l]. King Edward VI. granted the ſite of Biſham abbey to his father's repudiated wife, Anne of Cleve, who having ſurrendered it to the crown again in 1552[m], it was then given to Sir Philip Hoby, a zealous proteſtant, who had been of the privy council to King Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth paid a viſit to his nephew, Sir Edward Hoby, in 1592[n]. This Sir Edward was governor of Queenborough caſtle, and a gentleman of the privy chamber. He was a diſtinguiſhed ſpeaker in the four laſt parliaments of Queen Elizabeth. As a writer, he diſplayed his talents only in controverſial divinity. The learned Camden, who dedicated his *Hibernia* to him, has taken more than one opportunity of commending his abilities and acknowledging his friendſhip. Sir Edward Hoby died in 1617. Anthony Wood ſays, that he left a natural ſon, Peregrine, by one Catharine Pinkney, from whom the Hobys of Biſham deſcended; but the Baronetage of 1727 makes Peregrine the ſon of Sir Edward by his third wife, who was of the Umpton family. Edward Hoby, ſon of Peregrine, was created a baronet in 1666. The Rev. Sir Philip Hoby bart. the laſt heir male of the family, died in 1766, when this eſtate went to the Mills of Hampſhire, who were connected with the Hobys by marriage. Biſham abbey is now the ſeat of George Vanſittart eſq. one of the knights of the ſhire, who purchaſed it with the manor, of the widow of Sir John Hoby Mill bart. who died in 1780. There are no remains of the conventual buildings, except an ancient door-way, now the entrance of the houſe.

In an aiſle, or chapel, adjoining the pariſh church, is a window richly ornamented with the arms and quarterings of the Hoby family. This chapel was built by the widow of Sir Thomas Hoby, one of the learned daughters of Sir Anthony Coke, of Gidea hall in Eſſex, for the ſepulture of her huſband, who, being ambaſſador at Paris, died there in the year 1566; being cut off in the prime of life, as Anthony Wood obſerves, acting too zealouſly for his miſtreſs. His body was brought to England and interred in this chapel, whither Lady Hoby cauſed the body of his elder brother, Sir Philip, who died in 1558, to be removed, and erected to their memory a very coſtly monument, with their effigies in armour. It is inſcribed with a long epitaph in Latin verſe, written by Lady Hoby; whoſe compoſitions of this nature are very numerous. Sir Thomas Hoby publiſhed a tranſlation of Caſtiglione's Courtier. There is a very handſome monument alſo for Lady Hoby, who afterwards became the wife of John Lord Ruſſel, and another for Margaret, wife of Sir Edward Hoby.

[l] Biograph. Brit. [m] Records in the Augmentation Office. [n] Queen Elizabeth's Progreſſes.

Stubbins, in this pariſh, formerly the ſeat of Charles Ambler eſq. is now the property and reſidence of the Earl of Dorcheſter, who has lately purchaſed it of Eliſha Biſcoe eſq.

Temple-houſe, in this pariſh, was built by the late Thomas Williams eſq. M. P. for Marlow, and proprietor of the Temple Mills, where an extenſive manufacture of braſs and copper has been carried on for nearly a century. It is now the property and ſeat of his ſon, Owen Williams eſq. who ſucceeded his father in the repreſentation of the borough of Marlow.

The great tithes of Biſham, formerly appropriated to the abbey, are now the property of Mr. Vanſittart, who is patron of the vicarage.

BLEWBURY, in the hundred of Reading, lies about eight miles ſouth-eaſt of Abingdon, nearly ſeven miles ſouth-weſt of Wallingford, and about four miles north-eaſt of Ilſley. The manor belonged to Reading abbey. After the diſſolution it continued, for a conſiderable time, in the crown. It is now the property of John Phillips eſq. whoſe uncle purchaſed it, in 1762, of the repreſentatives of Francis Cottington eſq. who died in 1754. Mr. Cottington, whoſe family had been many years in poſſeſſion of this manor[o], was a collateral deſcendant of Francis, Lord Cottington, king Charles's ſecretary.

The manor of Nottingham's-fee, in Blewbury, which belonged formerly to the family of Kidwelly, is now the property of Mr. Thomas Humfrey.

In the pariſh church are ſome ancient memorials for the family of Latton, who, ſo early as the year 1324[p], had a ſeat at Upton, in this pariſh, where they continued during the following, and a part of the 16th century. Dame Alice Daunce, wife of Sir John Daunce, ſurveyor-general to king Henry VIII. who died in 1523, as appears by her epitaph, was of this family. The impropriate rectory, to which a manor is annexed, was formerly the corps of a prebend in the church of Sarum, and appears to have been given to the biſhops of that dioceſe, as an augmentation of their ſee. It is now held under the biſhop, on a beneficial leaſe, by the corporation of the ſons of the clergy. The biſhop is patron of the vicarage, which lies within the deanery of Abingdon.

There are chapels of eaſe at *Upton* and *Aſton-Upthorpe*, two hamlets in this pariſh. There were anciently two manors in Upton: Upton-Moels, which, on the death of the laſt Lord Moels, in 1337, paſſed, by a female heir, to the Lords Bottreaux[q], and was afterwards in the family of Kidwelly[r] and Upton-Ruſſels, which, in 1297, was in the Ruſſels[s], and afterwards, ſucceſſively, in the families of

[o] Court Rolls of the Manor. [p] Aſhmole. [q] Eſch. 11 Edw. III. and 2 Edw. IV.
[r] Eſch. Rich. III. and Eliz. [s] Eſch. 25 Ed. I.

Chelrey,

Chelrey [t], Bekyngham [u], Windſor [x], and White [y]. There is now only one manor in this hamlet, which is the property of Mr. Phillips. It was purchaſed by his uncle of the Tomkins family, who had poſſeſſed it for many years. The tithes of Upton belonged formerly to the prior and convent of Bermondſey, to whom they were given, in 1072, by Wynebald de Baalun [z]. Certain common fields in Upton were incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1790; the hamlet of Aſton-Upthorpe, by an act paſſed in 1792, and the pariſh of Blewbury, by an act, paſſed in 1803: the lands were not, by either act, exonerated from tithes.

A ſchool-houſe was built in the church-yard at Blewbury, in 1709, by Mr. William Malthus, who endowed it with lands at Noke, in Oxfordſhire, for the education of 30 boys and 30 girls. Mr. Middleton Bacon founded an alms-houſe for one poor man in 1735.

BOXFORD, anciently BOXORE, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies four miles from Newbury, near the road to Lambourn. The manor ſeems to have belonged, at a very early period, to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, as a member of Welford. It has paſſed through the ſame hands ſince the diſſolution, and is now the property of John Archer Houblon eſq. The manor of *Weſtbrook*, a hamlet in this pariſh, is claimed by Mr. Houblon, as a member of Boxford, and by Lord Craven, as an appendage to Benham-Valence. Both parties appoint game-keepers.

Mrs. Wells, wife of the preſent incumbent, is patroneſs of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury. *Ounham* and *Wyfield*, or *Wifehold*, are hamlets in this pariſh: at the former was a chapel of eaſe, which has been deſtroyed many years.

BRADFIELD, in the hundred of Theale, lies eight miles to the ſouth-weſt of Reading. King Ina founded a monaſtery here before the year 699, as appears by a grant of that monarch to the abbot and convent of Abingdon [a]. It is probable, that it was not of long continuance, as there is no other record of its exiſtence.

The manor was anciently in the baronial family of Somery [b], who appear to have had a ſeat here. In 1325, it was granted to Hugh le Deſpencer [c]. It was afterwards in the Suttons. John Sutton ſold it tō Sir Nicholas De la Beche, for an annuity of 50 marks [d]. When John Dalton forcibly carried away Margaret,

[t] Eſch. 9 Hen. IV. [u] Eſch. 16 Edw. IV. [x] Eſch. Car. I. [y] In 1669 it belonged to James White, of Putney, whoſe grandſon ſold it to the Rev. Michael Johnſon—— Papers in the poſſeſſion of William Bray eſq. [z] Manning's Surrey, vol. I. p. 192.
[a] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [b] Eſch. Edw. I. and Edw. II. [c] Dugdale's Baronage.
[d] Parl. Rot. vol. II. p. 176.

Lady De la Beche, and married her, the king ſeized on this manor, and granted a leaſe of it to Michael le Poyning[e]. It reverted afterwards to the Langfords, as repreſentatives of the De la Beches. Sir William Langford, who was ſheriff of Berkſhire and Oxfordſhire in 1404, reſided at Bradfield, and was buried there. The family became extinct in 1509[f]. This manor was afterwards in the Staffords[g]. About the year 1700, it was purchaſed by Sir Samuel Thompſon. In 1754, William Thompſon eſq. ſold it to Henry Stevens eſq. grandfather of the Rev. Henry Stevens, who is now lord of the manor, patron of the rectory, and incumbent. The advowſon of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading, was purchaſed in 1750, by the grandfather of Mr. Stevens, of Mr. Septimus Turton. Some ancient flint walls, and other traces of building on the ſite of the manor-houſe, ſeem to denote, that it was a manſion of conſiderable conſequence. The old barn, which ſtill remains, is 191 feet in length. Bradfield-houſe, the reſidence of Mr. Stevens, is ſuppoſed to have been the lodge. A manſion in this pariſh, called Bradfield-Hall, was built a few years ago, by Stephen Wilſon eſq. who is the preſent proprietor.

Ruſhall, a nominal manor in this pariſh, is the property of Mr. Bunny, of Newbury. Elias Aſhmole, the celebrated herald and antiquary, had an eſtate in this pariſh, which he acquired by his marriage with Lady Mainwaring, relict of Sir Thomas Mainwaring, recorder of London, and daughter of Sir William Forſter, of Aldermaſton[h]. In the pariſh church are memorials for the families of Thompſon and Blandy.

Dr. Pordage, a celebrated enthuſiaſt, placed by Baxter at the head of the Behmeniſts, was rector of Bradfield; he was rejected in 1654, when William Lloyd, afterwards biſhop of Worceſter, was preſented by Elias Aſhmole; but he reſigned it ſoon afterwards to avoid a law-ſuit, the right of preſentation being claimed by Sir Humphrey Forſter[i].

BRAY gives name to a hundred, which is only co-extenſive with the pariſh. It lies in the deanery of Reading, about five miles north-weſt of Windſor, and about a mile and a half nearly ſouth of Maidenhead.

The principal manor has been from time immemorial in the crown, having been occaſionally granted for life to ſome of the younger branches of the royal family: of late years it has been leaſed out to private perſons. The laſt leaſe, which was granted in 1771, to Charles Ambler eſq. was purchaſed in 1783, by Lord Brudenell,

[e] Parl. Rolls, vol. II. p. 176. [f] Eſch. 1 Hen. VIII. [g] Eſch. Eliz. [h] Life of Aſhmole.
[i] Coates's Hiſtory of Reading, p. 110.

now Earl of Cardigan, in truſt for his Majeſty. The moſt remarkable cuſtom of this manor is, that, in default of male heirs, lands are not divided among females of the ſame degree of kindred, but deſcend ſolely to the eldeſt [k].

The manor of Craſwell, or Creſwells, in this pariſh, was given by Sir John St. Philbert to king Edward III. and by him granted to the dean and chapter of Windſor, under whom it has ever ſince been held on leaſe. The leaſe, which had been many years veſted in the family of Meeke, was ſold, about the year 1780, to Mr. Fuller, the banker. The old manor-houſe on this eſtate is uninhabited.

The manor of Foxleys, which took its name from the family of Foxley, to whom it belonged in the 14th century [l], was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Murray and Banning. It is now the property of Mr. Vanſittart, a minor; his grandfather, Henry Vanſittart eſq. who was loſt in the Aurora frigate, purchaſed it, in 1765, of William Mackworth Praed eſq.

The manor of Ocholt, or Ockholt, belonged at an early period to the family of Norreys, anceſtors of the Lords Norreys of Rycote. Richard de Norreys, cook to Eleanor, Queen of Henry III. had a grant of Ocholt from that monarch in 1267, ſubject to a fee-farm rent of forty ſhillings. The grant ſtates it to have been an encroachment from the foreſt [m]. Sir William Norreys, who was commander in the king's army at the battle of Stoke [n], died ſeiſed of this eſtate in 1507 [o]. It was afterwards in the Fettiplaces [p]. The family of Finch, of Hertfordſhire, became poſſeſſed of it about the year 1679; in 1786, they ſold it to the late Penyſton Portlock Powney eſq. in whoſe repreſentatives it is now veſted. The manor houſe, which is an ancient ſtructure, was a ſeat of the Norreys family. In the hall is a large bay window full of coats of arms in ſtained glaſs, among which are thoſe of the abbey of Abingdon with the mitre, and of the Norreys family, ſeveral times repeated, with their motto "Feythfully ſerve." This ancient family had two other manors in this pariſh, Mores, or Moores, and Hynden. The manor, or reputed manor of Moores, has ſince paſſed through a variety of hands. It was the property of the late George Proctor eſq. whoſe family purchaſed it in the year 1738. The manor of Hynden having been purchaſed of Lord Norris, about the year 1609, by Sir Thomas Bodley, was given by him to the Univerſity of Oxford, for the ſupport of the public library, which he had then lately founded [q]. There is another reputed manor called Hendens, which was ſucceſſively in the

[k] From the information of James Payn eſq. ſteward of the manor, who has favoured us with many particulars from the Court Rolls, relating to the other manors.

[l] Eſch. Edw. II. and Edw. III. John Foxley had a licence to make a park. See Edw. II.

[m] Pat. 52 Hen. III. [n] Dugdale's Baronage. [o] Eſch. 22 Hen. VII. [p] Eſch. Hen. VIII.

[q] See his letter annexed to Hearne's Chron. Glaſton. p. 634.

families

families of Folham and Winder. It was purchaſed in 1762 by Sir Thomas Reeve, and is now the property and reſidence of the Rev. Dr. Trenchard, who married his elder daughter. In 1444 John Bray, eſquire of the body to king Henry VI. held in fee a houſe and lands, ſaid to have been formerly called John of Bray's place, and afterwards *Hevyndens*[r], perhaps one of the above-mentioned eſtates.

The manor of Ives, which extends into the pariſh of Cookham, belonged to Biſham abbey, and was afterwards granted for life to Anne of Cleve. In 1610 it was granted to George Salter and John Williams, by whom it was ſold to Sir William Garway in 1617[s]. In 1649 it was alienated by the Garways to John Whitfield eſq. from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Powneys. In 1794, it was purchaſed, in truſt for his Majeſty, by Gen. Goldſworthy. Ives place near Maidenhead, which was the ſeat of the Powneys, is now the property and reſidence of Thomas Wyatt eſq.

The manor of Lowbrooke, alias Lillybrooke, was the property of the late Henry Partridge eſq. ſome time Chief Juſtice of Ely, in whoſe family it is known to have been as early as the year 1659. It now belongs to his ſon, who is a minor.

Fyfield houſe, a reputed manor or manor-farm, was many years in the family of Winch, and deſcended from them to the Micklems, in whom it is now veſted.

At Holyport, a hamlet in this pariſh, is a manſion called Chuffs, which was in the family of Hayes from the year 1674 till after the death of the late James Hayes eſq. ſome time one of his Majeſty's juſtices for Wales, whoſe ſecond ſon, Charles Hayes eſq. reſides in another houſe at Holyport. It now belongs to Mr. Thomas Waghorn.

Down-place, in this pariſh, was the reſidence of Jacob Tonſon the bookſeller; afterwards of the Duke of Argyle. It is now the ſeat of John Huddleſton eſq. who purchaſed it of Mr. Barker Church.

*Braywick* and *Holyport* are conſiderable hamlets in this pariſh. There are ſeveral cluſters of houſes in other parts of the pariſh, as Oakley-green, Eaſt-Oakley, Fyfield, and Tutchen-end. The ſouth ſide of Maidenhead is in the pariſh of Bray. Between that town and the bridge is the villa of Sir William Herne, alderman of London. At Braywick, are Braywick houſe, the ſeat of the Hon. Thomas Windſor; and Braywick lodge, that of Thomas Slack eſq.

Gay's houſe, in this pariſh, the ſeat of Lord Lindores, came into his Lordſhip's poſſeſſion in right of his lady, who was the younger daughter and co-heir of the

[r] Pat. 3 Hen. VI. [s] Aſhmole.

late

late Sir Thomas Reeve. Mr. Townly Ward has a villa in this pariſh, called the Willows: he has a *ferme orneé* alſo, called Bullock's Hatch; and is the preſent leſſee of Monkey-iſland, ſo called from a whimſical ſtructure (ornamented with figures of monkeys), built by the late Duke of Marlborough.

The principal monuments in the pariſh-church at Bray, are thoſe of Sir William Paule, 1685, and William Norreys eſq. uſher of the order of the Garter, 1592. There are ſome memorials for the family of Hanger. Aſhmole has recorded the tombs of Sir William Laken, one of the juſtices of the King's Bench, 1475; ſome of the Foxley family, 1436, &c.; Sir Thomas Stewkly, 1569, &c.

The great tithes of this pariſh were appropriated to the abbot and convent of Cirenceſter. King Edward VI. in 1547, granted the rectorial manor, together with the advowſon of the vicarage, to John King, biſhop of Oxford, and his ſucceſſors in that ſee. Canon-Hill, the ſeat of James Law eſq. is the rectorial houſe, held on leaſe by him, under the ſee of Oxford. The late Henry Partridge eſq. was leſſee of a portion of the tithes; the leaſe is now veſted in his ſon, a minor; the remainder are held on leaſe, by the heirs of the late Jacob Wilkinſon eſq.

Fuller, in his Worthies of England, publiſhed in 1661, relates a ſtory of the verſatility of a vicar of this pariſh, who is ſaid to have conformed readily to every change of religion, during the reign of Henry VIII. and his three immediate ſucceſſors, and to have been ſteady only in one principle, which was to live and die Vicar of Bray. The writer of the well-known ſong of the Vicar of Bray has altered the date of the original ſtory, applying it to the 17th century, and making the vicar's verſatility ſhew itſelf by the frequent variation of his political principles. Thomas Brown, vicar of this pariſh, died in 1759, at the great age of 94, as appears by his epitaph. The pariſh of Bray has been incloſed, under an act of parliament, paſſed in 1786; the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

There is an alms-houſe at Bray, called Jeſus Hoſpital, founded by William Goddard eſq. in the year 1627, for 40 poor perſons, ſix of whom muſt be free of the Fiſhmongers Company: theſe have an allowance of 12 ſhillings a-week, if married; ſeven ſhillings, if ſingle. The remainder of the penſioners muſt be perſons 50 years of age, who have been houſe-holders in the pariſh of Bray, for 20 years; their allowance is two ſhillings a-week. They all have wood and coals, and a gown or coat every year. William Cherry eſq. founded a ſchool for the education of 20 poor boys, and endowed it with lands, which produce an income of about 30l. *per annum*. The maſter's ſalary is 20l. Bray is by ſome ſuppoſed to have been the *Bibracte* of Richard of Cirenceſter[a].

[a] See p. 201.

BRIGHT-WALTHAM, alias BRIGHT-WALTON, commonly called Brickleton, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about nine miles nearly north of Newbury. The manor, which belonged to the abbey of Battle in Suſſex, was granted by king Henry VIII. to Sir William and Thomas Eſſex [b]. It was afterwards for many years in the family of Eyre, of whom it was purchaſed, in 1800, by the preſent proprietor, the Rev. William Wroughton, of Woolly Park. Mr. James Cole is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury. The rector and church-wardens have a right of ſending two boys of this pariſh to the ſchool at Chaddleworth.

BRIGHTWELL, in the hundred of Moreton, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about two miles weſt of Wallingford. There was formerly a caſtle at this place, which in 1153 was delivered up, by King Stephen, to Henry II. then Duke of Normandy, purſuant to an agreement made between them, when the peace was concluded [c] at Wallingford, and probably was then demoliſhed. Its ſite is not known, but it is probable that it ſtood within the moat where is now the manor farm. The principal manor has belonged, from time immemorial, to the ſee of Wincheſter: the biſhop holds a court annually, as lord paramount.

In the pariſh church is the following memorial for Thomas Godwyn, author of a well-known treatiſe on the Roman and Jewiſh Antiquities: "*Depoſitum Thomæ Godwyn, S. T. P. viri integerrimi, pietate, literaturâ, morum ſuavitate ſpectabilis, rectoris hujus eccleſiæ vigilantiſſimi, cujus merita melius poſteris tranſmittent ſcripta quam marmor. Hunc lapidem uxor ejus Phelipps Godwyn amoris ergo mœrens poſuit. Obiit Martii* 20. *Anno Dom.* 1642." There is a memorial alſo for Robert Court, ſome time auditor to Prince Arthur, who died in 1509. He was proprietor of the manor of Makeney, in this pariſh, and built a houſe there for his reſidence [d]. This manor belonged, ſome time ſince, to Matthew Martin eſq. in whoſe family it had been a conſiderable time: having undergone an intermediate alienation, it is now the property of Robert Dalzell eſq. of Wallingford. The biſhop of Wincheſter is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Wallingford; beſides the tithes of this pariſh, the rector is entitled alſo to the greater part of thoſe ariſing from an eſtate, in the pariſh of Harwell, belonging to the ſee of Wincheſter.

Anthony Wood ſays, that Biſhop Gauden was rector of this pariſh in 1635; but he was evidently miſinformed, for it appears, that Dr. Thomas Godwyn abovementioned was rector from the year 1629, if not before, till his death in 1642 [e]; Edward Bernard, a learned aſtronomer, and Savilian profeſſor of that ſcience in the uni-

[b] Records in the Augmentation Office. [c] Mat. Paris, p. 72. [d] Leland. [e] From the information of Mr. Wintle. It appears, by the pariſh regiſter, that Frances, the wife of Thomas Godwyn, rector, was buried at Abingdon, in 1629.

verſity

verſity of Oxford, was rector from 1691 to 1697[f]. The Rev. Thomas Wintle, the preſent rector, has diſtinguiſhed himſelf as an Hebraiſt, particularly by his able tranſlation of the prophet Daniel.

BRIMPTON, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about ſix miles ſouth-eaſt of Newbury. The manor belonged formerly to the Brimptons[g], afterwards to the family of Stoke[h]. The Wollaſcots, a Roman Catholic family, poſſeſſed it for nearly two centuries; upon the death of the laſt heir male, it paſſed by marriage to the Earl of Fingal, who ſold it, about the year 1786, to the late John Crewe eſq. of Boleſworth Caſtle, in Cheſhire, together with the manor of Salford, in this pariſh, both now the property of his widow.

The Knights Templars are ſaid to have had a preceptory at Brimpton. When the ſurvey of Domeſday was taken, there were two churches in this pariſh; one in Roger de Lacy's manor, the other in Robert Fitzgerald's. Adjoining to a farm-houſe, about half a mile from the church, are the remains of an ancient eccleſiaſtical building. In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the Wollaſcots. The great tithes of this pariſh, together with the patronage of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury, have long been annexed to the manor. *Hide-end* is a hamlet in this pariſh.

BUCKLAND, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies a little to the north of the London road, four miles from Faringdon. The manor was, in 1227, the property of Hugh de Bocland, either ſon or grand-ſon of Hugh de Bocland, the grand-Juſticiar or chief-Juſtice of England; his grand-daughter, Matilda, brought it in marriage to William D'Averenches, a Norman baron. They had a daughter who married Hamon Crevequer, and left co-heireſſes, one of whom (Iſolda) having married Nicholas de Lenham, this manor was enjoyed by their poſterity, till about the year 1376, when it was recovered, after a long ſuit, by Sir Thomas Beſils, as being deſcended from a daughter of John D'Averenches, ſon of William and Matilda; whereas the Lenhams were deſcended from a daughter, who, as was before-mentioned, married Hamon Crevequer[i]. The manor, thus recovered, continued in the Beſils family till 1425, or later. Thomas Chaucer, ſon of the poet, was poſſeſſed of it in 1436; his daughter, Alice, brought it in marriage to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. Upon the attainder of Edmund De la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, King Henry VIII. granted it to his favourite Sir Charles Brandon, whom he

[f] Biograph Brit. [g] Cart. Edw. II. Eſch. Edw. III. [h] Eſch. 5 H. VI.

[i] From the papers of the Rev. Dr. Rawbone, who has been many years making collections for this pariſh, from which he has obligingly permitted us to take notes.

created Duke of Suffolk: in 1535, the duke gave it back to the king in exchange, under an act of parliament, which was obtained for that purpose. In 1545 it was granted to the family of Yate. Edward Yate, the fourth in descent of the Yates of Buckland, was created a baronet in 1622. Sir Robert Throckmorton bart. of Coughton, in Warwickshire, who died in 1721, married Mary, daughter of Sir Charles Yate bart. sister and heiress of Sir John Yate, by whose death, in 1690, the title of baronet in the Yate family became extinct. The present lord of the manor is Sir John Throckmorton bart. who has a handsome seat, built by his father Sir Robert, about the year 1757. Wood, of Bath, was the architect.

A manor in Buckland, which had belonged to the Knights Hospitallers, was granted in 1544, to John Yate and Tobias Pleydell. Yate having purchased Pleydell's share, it has since passed with the principal manor[k], being now the property of Sir John Throckmorton.

The manor of Carswell, in this parish, was granted to Sir Richard Abberbury, in 1385, as a compensation for the sums of money he had expended on the king's account, whilst he was guardian to him, in his minority[l]. Sir Richard Abberbury sold it, in 1393, to Katherine Besils and her son Peter, from whose family it passed, by a female heir, to the Fettiplaces, of East Shefford. In 1577, Sir John Fettiplace sold it to John Southby[m], in whose family it continued more than two centuries. Henry Southby esq. who died in 1797, bequeathed it to his nephew, the late Sir Thomas Hayward, whose only daughter and heir brought it in marriage to the present proprietor, T. W. Chamberlain Perfect esq. The manor-house was for many years a seat of the Southbys.

The manor of Barcot, in this parish, was in the family of Holcot or Hulcote, from 1292 till 1575, when William Hulcote, the last of the family, left it to a nephew of the name of Hutchinson[n]. This William Hulcote was a man of very singular character; he was imprisoned for his religion in the reign of Queen Mary, but, to escape the fire, subscribed the articles: After the reformation, he became a zealous lay-preacher, and was accustomed to mount the pulpit in a velvet bonnet and damask gown, and sometimes with a gold chain[o]: his will, which is very quaint and whimsical, directs his heart to be buried at Buckland. In the reign of Charles I. the manor of Barcot was purchased by Sir Henry Marten[p], Judge Advocate General, father of the profligate Harry Marten, the regicide, who squandered away the whole of that fortune which his father had acquired by his professional labours. This manor is now the property of Mrs. Loder, relict of the late Charles Loder esq. of Lechlade, in whose family it had been for many years.

[k] Dr. Rawbone's Papers. [l] Pat. 9 Rich. II. [m] Dr. Rawbone's Collections. [n] Ibid.
[o] Ant. Wood. [p] Dr. Rawbone's Collections.

Mr.

Mr. Loder has bequeathed the reverſion, after the death of his widow and brother, to Charles Stevens eſq. of Kencot, in Oxfordſhire.

The manor of Newenton or Newington, in this pariſh, was granted, in 1544, to Sir Alexander Unton. It was afterwards in the family of Keate. In 1620 it was purchaſed by Sir Henry Pratt, in whoſe family it continued about 100 years, and was then ſold in lots. The priory of Goring had an eſtate in this pariſh.

In the pariſh church are memorials of the families of Hulcote, Yate, and Southby. The manor of the rectory was purchaſed of Sir Thomas Beſils, by William de Edindon, biſhop of Wincheſter, and given by him to his newly-erected monaſtery of Bonnes-hommes, at Edindon, in Wiltſhire [q]. At the diſſolution it was annexed to the ſee of Briſtol, under which it has been long held on leaſe, by the families of Yate and Throckmorton. Sir John Throckmorton, as leſſee, is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The pariſh of Buckland has been incloſed, by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1802, when an allotment of land was given to the vicar, in lieu of tithes; the pariſh was then eſtimated to contain 2074 acres. The lands were not exonerated from the great tithes. There is a ſmall parochial library at Buckland. The late Mr. Southby, left an endowment of lands, now let at 2cl. *per annum*, and 200l. S. S. annuities, for the endowment of a Sunday ſchool. Mrs. Hayter gave the farther ſum of 200l. S. S. annuities.

BURGHILDBURY, or BUCKLEBURY, in the hundred of Reading, lies ſeven miles to the north-eaſt of Newbury. The manor, which belonged to Reading abbey, was granted, in 1539, to John Winchcombe [r], ſon of the opulent clothier of that name, known by the appellation of Jack of Newbury. Henry Winchcombe eſq. of Bucklebury, was created a baronet in 1661. Sir Henry Winchcombe, who died in 1703, left two daughters, co-heireſſes; Frances, the elder, was married to the celebrated Lord Bolingbroke, who, in her right, poſſeſſed this eſtate, and occaſionally reſided at Bucklebury: leaving no iſſue, the manor of Bucklebury deſcended to the Packers, as heirs of the younger daughter. Henry Packer eſq. the laſt heir male of this family, left it to his ſiſter's ſon, the late Winchcombe Henry Hartley eſq. who was one of the repreſentatives of the county, and died in 1794; it is now the property of his only child, Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley, a minor. The manor-houſe, which was built by John Winchcombe, the grantee, is now occupied by a tenant. In one of the bed-chambers is a portrait of Mr. Winchcombe, with the date 1550, and his age 61. There is a copy of this picture, which has been erroneouſly ſuppoſed to have been intended for John Winchcombe, the father, in a room over the new market-houſe, at Newbury.

[q] Dr. Rawbone's Collections. [r] Records in the Augmentation Office.

In the parish church are memorials of Frances Lady Bolingbroke, and several of the families of Winchcombe, Packer, and Hartley. In the church-yard is a large yew-tree, nine yards in girth. The great tithes of Bucklebury, which at the time of the reformation were appropriated to the abbey of Reading[s], are now annexed to the manor, together with the advowson of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury. The manor of *Marston* or *Martlestone*, a hamlet in this parish, belonged to the family of Norreys, in the reign of Henry VII.[t] afterwards to the Braybrookes[u]. Sir Jeffrey Martell, being possessed of this manor, built a chapel at Marston, and agreed with the then vicar of Bucklebury, to officiate in it every other Sunday, upon payment of a quarter of wheat and a quarter of mislen, at Christmas, and certain monies at Easter; this payment has long ceased, but the duty is continued. Richard Wightwick, the founder of Pembroke College in Oxford, being possessed of this manor, left the fee of it to the College, subject to a lease of 500 years to his own family; and either he himself, or one of his successors in the estate, charged it, in the mean time, with an annuity of 70l. *per annum* to the college. The last heir male died in 1728, leaving two daughters, the survivor of whom, Mrs. Wyld, having no issue, bequeathed her interest in this estate to a female friend, from whom it passed to the present proprietor, Mrs. Sarah Ouchterlony. The manor of Marston is held under the abbey manor at East-Hendred. The rectorial tithes of this hamlet are annexed to the vicarage of Bucklebury. There are two other hamlets in the parish, called *Chapel-row* and *Hawteridge*. Some lands in Hawteridge are in the parish of Sutton-Courteney, near Abingdon. The parish of Bucklebury has a right of sending children to the school, founded by Lady Frances Winchcombe, at Thatcham; in which, at present, there are twenty children from this parish.

BURFIELD, in the hundred of Theale, lies about five miles to the south-west of Reading. A manor in Burfield, which belonged to Reading abbey, (having been annexed to the office of Almoner,) was granted by King Henry VIII. in 1540, to Sir John Williams[x], who appears to have resided at the manor-house of this estate, called Burfield Place; his second son was created Lord Williams, of Thame. This manor descended to the Norris family, and was afterwards the property of Sir William Coventry, of whom it was purchased, in 1689, by Francis Parry esq. who had been envoy to Portugal, in the reign of Charles II. Three-fourths of this estate were sold by his representatives, in 1742, to the Earl of Uxbridge, and purchased of the Earl's grandson, by the late Bernard Brocas esq. husband of Mrs. Brocas, the

[s] They had been appropriated to the hospital, founded by Abbot Hugh, and were confirmed to it by Bishop Herbert. See Coates's History of Reading, p. 279. It is most probable that they fell into the hands of the abbey, on the suppression of that hospital. [t] Esch. [u] Esch. Eliz.
[x] Records in the Augmentation Office.

present

preſent proprietor. The other fourth is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Morgan, prebendary of Glouceſter, whoſe mother was one of the ſiſters and co-heirs of Charles Parry eſq. who died in 1740.

The manor of Burfield or Nethercourt, in Burfield, now the principal manor, was in 1441 the property of Sir John Drayton [y], one of whoſe daughters brought it in marriage to the Barentynes. Not long afterwards it became veſted in the crown, and was granted by King Henry VII. in tail male to Sir Gilbert Talbot [z], from whom it deſcended to the preſent proprietor, the Earl of Shrewſbury.

In the pariſh church is an ancient tomb, with the figure of a cruſader, in wood. Lord Shrewſbury is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading. The bridge over the Kennet, near this place, is of great antiquity; a toll was granted for its repair in 1280 [a].

Buscot, anciently Burwardscot, in the hundred of Shrivenham, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about five miles from Faringdon, on the road to Cirenceſter, and about one mile from Lechlade, in Glouceſterſhire. The manor was in the ancient family of Stonor, of Oxfordſhire, in the year 1479 [b], and probably at a much earlier period: in 1557 it was purchaſed of Sir Francis Stonor, by Walter Loveden eſq. The firſt of the Loveden family, who reſided in this county, came from Crenden, in Buckinghamſhire [c], where his family were of conſiderable antiquity, and ſettled at Lambourn, having married an heireſs of the family of Erle, of that place: they afterwards removed to Fyfield and Buſcot. Edward Loveden eſq. in whom the male line became extinct, died a bachelor in 1749, having bequeathed his eſtates to his great-nephew, Edward Loveden Townſend, the preſent proprietor, then an infant, and, by his will, directed that he ſhould take his name and arms. Buſcot-houſe, the ſeat of Mr. Loveden, was begun in 1780, and completed in 1783. It forms a conſpicuous object from the Faringdon road: the park is laid out on the ſite of a farm, which was re-purchaſed by Mr. Loveden, after having been out of the family 150 years. The manors of Mychell's Court and Paynell's Court, ſo called probably from families to whom they belonged at a remote period [d], have been held with the manor of Buſcot, ever ſince the time of the Stonors. Mychell's Court was before in the family of Maundeville [e]. The manor of Philpot's Court, in this pariſh, was, it is probable, the property of the Baron St. Philibert, lord of the adjoining manor of Eaton-Haſtings, and took its name, though now ſtrangely transformed, from him. William De la Pole, Duke

[y] Cl. Hen. VI. [z] Rot. Parl. VI. 477. [a] Pat. 8 Edw. I. [b] Mr. Loveden's Papers. [c] They were originally of Lincolnſhire. [d] Paynell's Court was certainly, in 1326, the property of Richard Paynell, and was then called a third part of the manor of Buſcot. Placit apud Weſt. [e] Cl. Edw. III.

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of Suffolk, died, ſeiſed of it by the name of Phelberdes[f]. It was afterwards by grant, it is probable, in the Beckinghams, from whom it paſſed, by an heir female, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to the Windſors. In 1639 Sir Andrew Windſor ſold it to Sir Edward Yate bart. whoſe ſon John ſettled it on his daughter Anne, wife of the Hon. Thomas Talbot. It became afterwards, either by purchaſe or failure of iſſue, the property of Sir Robert Throckmorton bart. who married Mary Yate, ſiſter of Mrs. Talbot, and was purchaſed of the late baronet by Mr. Loveden. This pariſh, which contains about 2850 acres of land, was incloſed by a decree of Chancery, in 1614. The compoſition then made for tithes was ſet aſide by the late rector, who inſtituted a ſuit in Chancery for that purpoſe. Mr. Loveden is patron of the rectory, which is now valued at nearly 700l. *per annum.*

CATMERE, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies about ten miles north of Newbury, and about four miles nearly weſt of Ilſley. Although it now contains only a farm-houſe and a cottage[g], it had formerly a market on Mondays, granted by King Edward I. in 1306, and a fair at the feſtival of St. Margaret[h]. The manor was anciently the joint property of the Gaſcelyns[i] and Turbevilles, who ſeem to have married co-heireſſes. The Turbevilles were afterwards in poſſeſſion of the whole, which paſſed by female heirs to the families of De Arches and Eyſton[k]. It is now the property of Baſil Eyſton eſq. of Eaſt-Hendred, whoſe anceſtors, in the male line, have poſſeſſed it for about four centuries and a half. The church was formerly a chapel to Farnborough. It is now a rectory, united to Peaſemore, in the deanery of Newbury, and in the patronage of John Archer Houblon eſq.

CHADDLEWORTH, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about nine miles north-weſt of Newbury. The manor was given, by William the Conqueror, to Robert D'Oilly. Having reverted to the crown, it became afterwards the property of Eleanor, the queen of Edward I.[l] In 1283, it was given to the priory of Ambreſbury, in Wiltſhire[m]. In 1544, it was purchaſed of William Sharington eſq. groom of the privy chamber, to whom it had been granted on the diſſolution of monaſteries, by Henry Brouncker, whoſe heir, William Brouncker, ſold it in 1576 to William Nelſon eſq. chief prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas, whoſe family became extinct in the male line, by the death of Thomas Nelſon eſq. in 1748. The preſent proprietor, Richard Walter Nelſon eſq. is ſon of Richard Walter eſq. who married Mr. Nelſon's eldeſt daughter and co-heir; the other daughters died un-

[f] Dugdale. [g] Excluſively of the hamlet of Lilly, in which are thirteen houſes belonging to this pariſh. [h] Cart. 34 Edw. I. [i] Ibid. and Eſch. Edw. III. [k] From the information of Mr. Eyſton. [l] Eſch. 12 Edw. I. [m] Pat. 12 Edw. I.

married.

married. Elizabeth, the laſt ſurvivor, bequeathed all her intereſt in this manor, and other eſtates, to her nephew, Richard Walter, requeſting that he would take the name of Nelſon, in addition to his own. The ſingular cuſtom by which a widow recovered her free-bench, forfeited by incontinency, well known to have been formerly in uſe in the manor of Enborne, prevailed alſo in this manor[n]. The family of Tate had an eſtate in this pariſh, called the manor of Frankleyns[o], which is not now known; but it is probable, that it forms part of the eſtate of Mr. Nelſon, who has ſome fields called by that name.

In the pariſh-church and church-yard are memorials of the families of Nelſon, Tipping of Woolley-Park, and Blandy. The rectory was given to the monaſtery of Poghly, by the founder[p]: it is now veſted in the church of Weſtminſter. The dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

The monaſtery of Poghly above-mentioned was founded about the year 1160, upon the ſite of a hermitage, at a place called Ellensfordmere, in this pariſh, for Auſtin canons[q]. It was ſuppreſſed by Cardinal Wolſey, among the ſmaller monaſteries in 1532, when its revenues were found to be about 71l. *per annum*[r]. The king granted the priory, and all its eſtates, to the abbot and convent of Weſtminſter; and they were re-granted, after the general diſſolution, to the dean and chapter of that church. The ſite of the monaſtery, of which no veſtige remains[s], is now a farm houſe, ſituated in a very retired ſpot, among woods, about a mile and a half from Chaddleworth. The eſtate was held on leaſe, under the dean and chapter, by the late Mr. John Waſey, of Newbury.

Woolley-Park, in this pariſh, where was formerly a free chapel[t], is the ſeat of the Rev. Philip Wroughton. The manor, which had belonged to the abbey of the Minories in London, was granted in 1540, to Richard Tate[u]. Not many years afterwards it was purchaſed of the Tates by John Read, and Margaret his wife, who, in 1566, conveyed it to Thomas Tipping, and Bartholomew his ſon. Woolley-Park continued to be a ſeat of the Tipping family, till the death of Bartholomew Tipping eſq. in 1798. It is now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton, in right of his wife, Mary-Anne, niece and ſole heireſs of the late Mr. Tipping. The

[n] See Nelſon's edition of Blount's Law Dictionary, the editor of which work was of this family.
[o] See Eſch. Ph. and Mar. [p] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [q] Tanner. [r] Ibid.
[s] There were ſome ruins of the priory remaining in 1759, as appears by the vicar's anſwers to Mr. Rowe Mores's queries in the Bibl. Top. Brit.
[t] This chapel, by the name of Wulvely, was given to the priory of Poghly by the founder, as annexed to the church of Chaddleworth (Dugdale). There were no remains of it in 1759, but the ſite was known. Bibl. Top. Brit. [u] Records in the Augmentation Office.

houſe, built by Bartholomew Tipping eſq. in 1690, was much altered in 1799, by the preſent proprietor, from deſigns of Mr. Jeffrey Wyatt.

Mr. William Saunders, who died in 1720, founded a ſchool at Chaddleworth, for the education of eight poor children; two of Chaddleworth, two of Bright-Walton, two of Leckhamſted, one of Fawley, and one of Great-Shefford: the children are cloathed and apprenticed out of the funds of the charity. Mrs. Suſan Winn, ſiſter of Mr. Saunders, left 10l. *per annum*, for educating ten poor children of Chaddleworth.

CHEVELEY, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about five miles north of Newbury. The manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, is the joint property of Sir Walter James James bart. and William Capel eſq. of Preſtbury, in Glouceſterſhire. The grandfather of Sir W. J. James, and the grandfather of the late Chriſtopher Capel eſq. (from whom Mr. Capel, of Preſtbury, inherits this and other eſtates), married two co-heireſſes of the name of Pocock, whoſe family had poſſeſſed the manor of Cheveley for a conſiderable time. The great tithes, which were formerly appropriated to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, and the advowſon of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury, are annexed to the manor.

There are three hamlets in this pariſh, which have chapels of eaſe, *Winterbourne*, *Leckhamſted*, and *Oare*. *Winterbourne* lies about three miles to the ſouth-weſt of Cheveley. The manor of Winterbourne-Main was ſo called from Maen Fitz-Richard, who died ſeiſed of it in 1261 [x]. It was afterwards ſucceſſively in the Greys of Rotherfield [y], and the Abberburys [z]. Sir John Phelip died ſeiſed of it in the reign of Henry V. [a] We have not been able to aſcertain any thing of its ſubſequent hiſtory. In the chapel are memorials of the families of Pocock, Henſhaw, and Weſton. The manor of *Leckhamſted*, (which hamlet lies nearly four miles to the north-weſt of Cheveley,) was granted by King Edward II. to his favourite, Piers Gaveſton [b]. In 1337, it was ſold by Sir Matthew Fitzherbert to Sir Nicholas de la Beche, who had a confirmation from the crown in 1338 [c]: no notice of this manor has been found in records of a later date. The manor of *Oare*, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was ſurrendered to King Henry VIII. in 1547, by Edward Baſhe [d]. It was afterwards in the family of Calvert; and, having undergone ſeveral intermediate alienations, was purchaſed

[x] Eſch. 45 Hen. III. [y] Eſch. Edw. II. and Edw. III. [z] Eſch. Rich. II.
[a] Eſch. Hen. V. [b] Cart. Edw. II. [c] Clauſ. 11 Edw. II. and Pat. 12 Edw. III.
[d] Records in the Augmentation Office.

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of the late Mr. Brummell by the preſent proprietor, William Mount eſq. of Waſing.

The manor of Priors-Court, alias Currage, in this pariſh, belongs to the dean and chapter of Weſtminſter. Prior's-Court-houſe was held for many years under that church, by the family of Barton, and is now the property of Mrs. Buckle, wife of Lewis Buckle eſq. and daughter of the late Mrs. Batchelor, of Fulham, who was ſiſter of Dr. Barton, the late warden of Merton College, in Oxford: it is at preſent uninhabited. *North-Heath* and *Snelſmore* are hamlets in this pariſh: At North-Heath is a ſchool, founded in 1753, by Philip Henſhaw eſq. and endowed with 10l. *per annum*, for the education of 10 boys and 10 girls. Bradley farm, in this pariſh, was anciently held with the manor of Langley, in the adjoining pariſh of Hampſted-Norris, by the Veres, Earls of Oxford. It is now the joint property of Sir W. J. James bart. and Mr. Capel, by inheritance from the Pococks.

CHILDREY, in the hundred of Wanting, and deanery of Abingdon, lies three miles weſt of the town of Wantage.

Sir Edward Walker, in his Hiſtorical Diſcourſes [e], informs us, that King Charles I. accompanied by his own troop, took up his quarters at this village, for one night, on the 10th of April, 1644.

There were three manors in Childrey, when the Norman Survey was taken, which ſeem to have continued ſeparate to the preſent time. It has been erroneouſly ſtated, that Childrey was firſt divided into three manors, upon occaſion of its being left between three co-heireſſes of Sir John Childrey [f]. The three manors are diſtinguiſhed by the names of Frethorne, Maltravers, and Rampions, or more properly Rampanes: it was the manor of Frethorne only which belonged to the Childreys, or Chelreys, as their name is ſpelt in ancient records. John Frethorne died ſeiſed of the manor of Chelreye, in 1353, leaving a brother Walter [g], from whom it probably paſſed by purchaſe to Sir Edmund Chelrey, who died ſeiſed of it in 1372 [h]. The family of Chelrey were of conſequence in the county before this time, and it is probable had their reſidence at this place; for it appears, that Henry de Chelrey was ſheriff for the counties of Berks and Oxford, in 1336. Thomas Chelrey died ſeiſed of the manor of Frethorne, in Chelrey, in 1407, leaving a daughter Elizabeth, and two grand-daughters, (the children of his daughter Sibella,) co-heireſſes. Elizabeth, his daughter, brought this manor in marriage to John Kingſton [i], whoſe deſcendant, Nicholas Kingſton, died ſeiſed of it in 1515, leaving an only daughter, the wife of Thomas Liſle [k]. The manor of Frethorne is now

[e] Page 8. [f] See Aſhmole's Collections and Magna Britannia. [g] Eſch. Edw. III.
[h] Ibid. [i] Eſch. Hen. IV. [k] Eſch. Hen. VIII.

the property of Mr. Roycroft, having been purchaſed in or about the year 1769, of the family of Knight, to whom it belonged when Aſhmole's Collections were publiſhed in 1720.

The manor of Maltravers was ſo called from the baronial family of that name, who were poſſeſſed of an eſtate in Childrey before the year 1300[l]. This manor was for many years in the Ayſhcombs of Lyford[m], and is now the property of Mr. Shippery. The manor of Rampions (more properly Rampanes) took its name from William de Rampane, who, at a very early period, held lands in this pariſh[n]; which paſſed ſoon afterwards to the Fettiplaces, an ancient family, who poſſeſſed this manor for ſeveral centuries, and had a ſeat at Childrey. John Fettiplace, of Childrey, was created a baronet in 1661. On the death of Sir George Fettiplace, the laſt baronet, in 1743, the male line of this family became extinct; and the manor of Rampions, with other eſtates, paſſed to the ſon of Robert Buſhel eſq. of Caſtle-Prior, in Worceſterſhire, (by Diana, daughter of Sir John Fettiplace,) who took the name of Fettiplace, and was father of Charles Fettiplace eſq. the preſent poſſeſſor. The manor-houſe has been long deſerted by the family, and in part pulled down; what remains is occupied by a tenant.

In the church are ſeveral ancient monuments of the Fyndernes, Kingſtons, and Walronds. The braſs figures of William Fynderne and his lady (1444) are inlaid with lead. An altar tomb in the north tranſept, with the figure of a cruſader under an ogee arch richly ornamented, is ſuppoſed to be that of Sir Edmund Chelrey. The windows are ornamented with ſtained glaſs. In the ſouth tranſept, or St. Catherine's aiſle, was a chantry founded by William Fettiplace, in honour of the Virgin Mary, the holy Trinity, and St. Catherine. In the windows are the arms of Fettiplace, Beſils, &c. The font, which is of lead, is circular, and divided into compartments, on each of which is the figure of an abbot.

The preſident and ſcholars of Corpus-Chriſti College in Oxford are patrons of the rectory. Dr. Edward Pocock, the learned Orientaliſt, who died in 1691, was rector of this pariſh[o]. Childrey has been incloſed under an act of parliament paſſed in 1772, when an allotment of land was aſſigned, in lieu of tithes, to the rector.

William Fettiplace, of Childrey, in the year 1526, gave a moiety of the manor of Letcombe-Baſſet, and other eſtates in Berkſhire, to the provoſt and ſcholars of Queen's College, Oxford, on condition of their keeping in repair St. Catherine's aiſle at Childrey, in which he had founded a chantry, and an alms-houſe which he

[l] See Eſch. Edw. I. and Dugdale's Baronage. [m] See Eſch. Eliz. and Aſhmole's Berkſhire.
[n] See the Cartulary of Beaulieu abbey in the Cotton. MSS. Nero A. XII.
[o] Granger's Biographical Hiſtory.

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had built there for the habitation of three poor men of the parishes of Childrey and Letcombe-Basset. They were also to pay the chantry priest, who was to keep a free school for all the poor children of Childrey, 8l. *per annum*, and to allow 9d. a-week each to the poor men, 3s. 4d. yearly for a gown, and 2s. 8d. for fuel; the residue of the rents, after fulfilling these specific bequests, was to be expended by the provost and scholars in exhibitions, or otherwise, at their discretion. The chaplain of the chantry was not to be otherwise beneficed; and the founder directed, that if he should become a fornicator, or should keep hounds, or be a common hunter, or a stirrer-up of contention in the town of Childrey, or the parts adjacent, he should "be forthwith *amoved*." He was to be well skilled in grammar, to enable him to keep the free-school; he was to teach the children "the alphabet, the the Lord's Prayer, the Salutation of the Blessed Virgin, the Apostle's Creed, and all other things necessary to enable them to assist the priest in the celebration of the mass, together with the psalm *de profundis*, and the usual prayers for the dead; to teach them likewise English, the 14 articles of faith, the ten commandments, the seven deadly sins, the seven sacraments of the church, the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost, the seven works of mercy, as well corporal as spiritual, the five bodily senses, and the manner of confession. And if any should be apt and disposed to learn grammar, he was to instruct them therein after the best and most diligent manner that he could[p]." The rector and scholars of Lincoln college were made visitors. The salary of 8l. *per ann.* is still continued to the schoolmaster, who has a residence under the same roof with the alms-house. The alms-men now receive nearly 3l. 3s. *per annum* each, being somewhat more than the pittance allowed by the founder.

CHILTON, near Hungerford, is partly in this county and partly in Wiltshire; as the church and village are in Wiltshire, it will be more particularly treated of under that county. The manor of Chilton and Leverton, extending into Berkshire, is now the property of John Pearse esq. of Chilton-lodge: it was purchased about the middle of the 17th century, by Sir Bulstrode Whitlocke, whose descendants sold it to Governor Holwell: after experiencing some intermediate alienations, it was purchased of Messrs. Ranson, Morland, and Co. by the present proprietor.

CHILTON, in the hundred of Compton and deanery of Abingdon, lies about three miles and a half north of Ilsley. The manor was many years in the family of Windsor[q], afterwards in the Yorkes; from whom, in the reign of Henry VIII. it passed by an heir female to the Hungerfords[r]. It then acquired the name of

[p] See the Founder's ordinances and his will, printed in the Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica.
[q] See Esch. Ric. II. Hen. V. and Hen. VI. [r] Esch. Hen. VII. and Hen. VIII.

Chilton-Hungerford. In 1700 it was ſold by Sir George Hungerford, to Mr. Knapp, whoſe grand-daughter brought it into the family of Peers, of Chiſlehampton in Oxfordſhire, of whom it has been lately purchaſed by the preſent proprietor, Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe bart. John Walker Heneage eſq. of Compton-houſe in Wiltſhire, is patron of the rectory.

CHOLSEY, in the hundred of Reading, lies about three miles to the ſouth-weſt of Wallingford. King Ethelred founded a monaſtery at this place in 986, to make atonement for the murder of his brother Edward the Martyr. It is ſuppoſed to have been deſtroyed by the Danes in 1006, when we are told that they burnt Reading, *Ceolſey*, and other places in Berkſhire[s]. King Henry I. in his charter, by which he grants this manor to Reading abbey, ſpeaks of the monaſtery at Cholſey as having been many years deſtroyed[t]. The abbot of Reading had a ſeat here, which was granted, in 1555, to Sir Francis Engleſield. The manor, which was reſerved by the crown, was afterwards granted to William Knolles, Viſcount Wallingford (afterwards Earl of Banbury), from whoſe family it paſſed to that of Rich, Earls of Warwick, and is now the property of their repreſentative, Lord Kenſington.

On this eſtate is a very remarkable barn 51 feet in height, 54 in width, and 303 in length. A tablet on the wall, near one of the doors, records the following very extraordinary and almoſt incredible anecdote of manual labour: "In this barn John Laneſley threſhed, for Mr. Joſeph Hopkins, 5 quarters 7 buſhels and a half of wheat in 13 hours, on March 15, 1747." Wonderful as this may appear, it is univerſally believed in the neighbourhood. The Hopkins family, who are ſtill tenants of the eſtate, vouch for its truth; and Laneſley himſelf ſtill lives to tell the ſtory. He is now (Jan. 1805) in his 93d year, and has, till within theſe few months, worked ever ſince in the ſame farm, and received full wages as a labourer in huſbandry; it is only during the preſent winter he has become dependant on parochial relief. It is underſtood that, in the performance of the above-mentioned feat, he had every aſſiſtance that could be rendered him, except an actual participation of the threſhing; that two or three men were conſtantly employed in placing the ears of corn, thinly ſcattered, under his flail, and removing the ſtraw as ſoon as threſhed.

When the Survey of Domeſday was taken, the church of Cholſey belonged to the abbey of Mount St. Michael, in Normandy; it was afterwards given to Reading abbey. Lord Kenſington is the preſent impropriator of the great tythes. The Lord Chancellor is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Wallingford.

*Moulsford*, in this pariſh, by the Thames' ſide, on the road from Wallingford to Reading, has a chapel of eaſe, in which are ſome monuments of the Giffard family.

[s] Sim. Dunelm. [t] Dugdale's Monaſticon.

William Giffard esq. who died in 1694, was the first president of Fort St. George, in Africa. The manor of Moulsford was given by King Henry I. to Girardus Fitzwalter, ancestor of the Carews [u], who, in the reign of Henry III. were stiled Barons Carru and Mulesford: they continued in possession of this manor till 1472 [x], and perhaps later. It was afterwards a seat of the Sambourns: Sir Henry Sambourn, of Moulsford, was sheriff of the county in 1631. It is now, by a late purchase, the property of Robert Baker esq.

CLEWER, or CLEWORTH, in the hundred of Ripplesmere, and deanery of Reading, is situated on the banks of the Thames. The village lies about a mile west of Windsor, but the parish extends into that town, and comprises a considerable part of it [y]. The manor of Clewer was granted, in 1257, to Matthew Besil [z]. It was afterwards in the Cifrewasts [a], an ancient family, which became extinct in the male line about the year 1450. Sir William Laken, one of the justices of the King's Bench, married one of the co-heiresses. Thomas, Lord Sandys, gave this manor to King Edward VI. in 1548 [b]. It is now the property of Arthur Vansittart esq. in whose family it has been nearly a century. The family of Brocas had a manor in this parish, which appears to have formed the endowment of our Lady's chantry, in the church of Clewer [c]. It was sometimes called the manor of Clewer-Brocas. This family had also the manor of Didworth, or Dudworth Maunsell [d], a hamlet of Windsor, adjoining to this parish. These manors are now the property of the Hon. Mrs. Keppel, widow of the Bishop of Exeter, having been bequeathed to her by her father, Sir Edward Walpole, who purchased them of Topham Beauclerk esq.; previously to this they had been many years in the family of Topham.

In the church are memorials of the family of Hayes, of Holyport. Some very indifferent verses, on a brass plate, commemorate Martin Expence, a famous archer, who shot a match against a hundred men, near Bray. The provost and fellows of Eton College are patrons of the rectory.

The seat of General Harcourt, at St. Leonard's Hill, in this parish, was built by the Duchess of Gloucester, when Countess of Waldegrave, on the site of a cottage: it was purchased by the present proprietor, about 1781. The adjoining seat of the late Mr. Birch, now belonging to his representatives, was for some time the property and residence of Lilly Aynscombe esq. who, about the year 1750, purchased and rebuilt the old mansion, which had been a seat of Frances, Duchess of Somerset.

[u] Camden. [x] Esch. 11 Edw. IV. [y] Nearly 170 houses, according to the returns made to parliament under the Population Act, in 1801. [z] Pat. 41 Hen. III. [a] Esch. Edw. III.—Hen. VI. [b] Records in the Augmentation Office. [c] Esch. Rich. II.—Rich. III. [d] Esch. Hen. IV.—Rich. III.

COLESHILL,

COLESHILL, in the hundred of Shrivenham, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about four miles from Faringdon, and two miles from Highworth, in Wiltſhire, being on the borders of that county. The manor was given to the priory of Bonnes-hommes, at Edindon, in Wiltſhire, by their founder, William de Edindon, biſhop of Winchester. After the reformation, it was given to Thomas Lord Seymour, the Lord-Admiral; and, after his attainder, was ſucceſſively, either by leaſe or grant, the property of Anne, Ducheſs of Somerſet, and Arthur Lord Grey, of Wilton. In 1601, it belonged to Sir Thomas Freake, and, in 1626, was purchaſed by Sir Henry Pratt, alderman of London, who was created a baronet in 1641: his only daughter becoming heir to her brother, Sir George Pratt, the ſecond and laſt baronet of the family, brought Coleſhill, by marriage, to the family of Pleydell, who, many years before, had an eſtate, called in ſome records a manor, in Coleſhill, which they appear to have inherited from a family, who took their name from the village, and poſſeſſed this eſtate ſo early as the reign of Edward I.[e] A younger branch of the family of Pleydell (the elder branch being ſeated at Shrivenham) continued to reſide here[f], till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Anthony Pleydell, of Coleſhill, died without iſſue. The manor of Coleſhill now belongs to the Earl of Radnor, whoſe father married the only daughter and heir of Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell bart. grandſon of Thomas Pleydell eſq. of Shrivenham, who married Sir George Pratt's ſiſter. Coleſhill-houſe, now occupied by Lord Folkſtone, eldeſt ſon of the Earl of Radnor, was built by Inigo Jones, about the middle of the 17th century, and ſtill retains its original form[g].

In the chancel of the pariſh church, on the north ſide, is a handſome monument for Sir Henry Pratt bart. who died in 1647, and, on the oppoſite ſide, one of a more modern date, of artificial ſtone, executed in the Gothic ſtyle, in memory of Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell bart. and his lady. The ſouth tranſept is all that remains of a chapel, built about the year 1499, by Thomas Pleydell eſq. of Coleſhill, who died in 1527. It is now fitted up as a pew for Lord Radnor's family. In the ſouth wall are preſerved two ogee arches, under one of which lies the effigies of Agnes Pleydell, wife of the founder: on the eaſt wall is a braſs tablet, containing a genealogical account of the Pleydell family, and an extract from the will of Thomas Pleydell. On the weſt ſide is an elegant marble cenotaph, by Ryſbrach, in memory of the Hon. Harriot Bouverie, only child of Sir M. S. Pleydell, and wife of the Hon. William Bouverie, afterwards Earl of Radnor. In the eaſt window of the chancel is the Nativity, in ſtained glaſs, bought at Angers, in 1787, by the Earl of

[e] See a genealogical tablet of the Pleydells, in Coleſhill church. [f] Pedigree of the Pleydells in Bibl. Top. Brit. Berks. [g] A receipt for one of the chimney pieces, now in the poſſeſſion of the Earl of Radnor, is dated April 21, 1660.

Radnor,

Radnor, and put up at his expence. The great tithes were given with the manor, by William de Edindon, Biſhop of Wincheſter, to the monaſtery founded by him at Edindon, in Wiltſhire. The impropriation is now veſted in the Earl of Radnor, who is patron of the vicarage. The church of St. Mary at Wincheſter had an eſtate in Coleſhill, at the time of the Norman Survey, which was given by Walter Lacy with his daughter, when ſhe became a nun in that convent.

COMPTON, in the hundred of that name, and deanery of Newbury, lies about two miles to the ſouth-weſt of Ilſley. The manor of Weſt-Compton, in this pariſh, is the paramount manor of the hundred. It belonged formerly to the abbey of Wherwell, in Hampſhire. After the diſſolution, it was given to the biſhops of Bath and Wells, who had an eſtate in this pariſh as early as the year 1316 [h]. This manor, with the hundred of Compton, has been held on leaſe for a conſiderable time, by the family of Potenger.

The manor of Eaſt-Compton, in this pariſh, was ſucceſſively in the families of Muſgros [i], De la Beche, and Langford. It is now the property of Sir Walter James James bart. to whoſe anceſtors, the Heads, it was granted by the crown, in or about the reign of Queen Elizabeth. An eſtate in this pariſh, called the manor of Stokes, which belonged to the Norris family [k], is not now known. Sir W. J. James is patron of the vicarage, and impropriator of the great tithes, which belonged to Reading abbey.

COMPTON-BEAUCHAMP, or COMPTON-REGIS, in the hundred of Shrivenham, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about eight miles weſt of Wantage, and about ſix miles nearly to the ſouth of Faringdon. The manor, which is called, in ſome ancient records, Compton *juxta* Shrivenham, and Compton *juxta* White-horſe, was anciently in the baronial family of Somery [l]: it was held under them by William de Beauchamp [m], whoſe deſcendants, the Earls of Warwick, were, for a conſiderable time, lords of the manor [n]. In 1524, it belonged to the Fettiplaces [o], and at a later period to the Pyles. Sir Gabriel Pyle died ſeiſed of it in 1623 [p]. His ſon Francis, who was of Compton-Beauchamp, was created a baronet in 1628. From the Pyles this eſtate paſſed, by marriage, about the year 1670, to the family of Richards, of Yaverland, in the Iſle of Wight. Mr. Richards, the laſt heir male of this family, bequeathed it, in caſe of his daughter's dying without iſſue, to

[h] Nomina Villarum, No. 6281. Harl. MSS.
[i] Confirmed to Muſgros by Cart. 4 Edw. I.
[k] Eſch. 6 Eliz.
[l] Eſch. Edw. I. and Edw. II.
[m] Eſch. 1 Edw. I.
[n] Eſch. Edw. III.—Hen. IV.
[o] Eſch. Hen. VIII.
[p] Eſch. Jac. I.

Mr. Wright, then town-clerk of Oxford, and maternal grandfather of the preſent proprietor, John Atkyns Wright eſq. one of the repreſentatives in parliament for that city.

The hamlet of *Knighton*, in this pariſh, is attached to the hundred of Ewelm, in Oxfordſhire. The manor, which was given by the Baron St. Walery to the canons of St. Frideſwide, in Oxford [q], belonged, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to the family of George [r]; in 1623, to the Pyles [s]; and ſeems to have paſſed ſince that time, with Compton-Beauchamp, being now the property of Mr. Atkyns Wright.

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the family of Richards. Mr. Atkyns Wright is patron of the rectory. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1794: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

COOKHAM, in the hundred of Barnerſh, and deanery of Reading, lies about three miles north of Maidenhead, part of which town is within the pariſh. Cookham itſelf was formerly a market town. The Survey of Domeſday values the tolls, of what was then called the New Market at Cookham, at 20s. *per annum*. It has now two annual fairs, May 16th and October 11th. The principal manor has been in the crown from time immemorial. Of late years it has been out on leaſe. In 1784, a leaſe, as yet unexpired, was purchaſed by James Lord Brudenell, now Earl of Cardigan, as truſtee for his Majeſty. The tenants of this manor, as being of the ancient demeſne of the crown, are toll-free in all markets, and exempt from ſerving on juries. The ſuit-holders, or thoſe who have ſuit-hold eſtates within the manor, pay a heriot of the beſt horſe and ſaddle; or, ſhould the deceaſed not have poſſeſſed a horſe, the beſt of his houſehold goods, and half a year's quit rent.

The manor of Great Bradley, in this pariſh, belonged formerly to the St. Quintins, from whom it paſſed, by a female heir, to the Lords Fitzhugh [t]. Being veſted in the crown, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was granted to Thomas Farmer eſq. [u] In 1705 it was purchaſed of the Turbevilles, in whoſe family it had then been for many years, by Edward Colſton eſq. well known for his numerous and munificent benefactions to the city of Briſtol. It is now the property of his deſcendant in the female line, Edward Francis Colſton eſq. whoſe grand-father changed his name, on ſucceeding to this and other conſiderable eſtates.

The manor of Pinkneys belonged to an ancient family, from whom it derived its name [x], afterwards to the Bulſtrodes [y] and Wallers [z]. It has of late years been

[q] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [r] Eſch. [s] Eſch. Jac. I. [t] Eſch. Edw. III.—Edw. IV.
[u] From the information of James Payn eſq. ſteward of the king's manor. [x] Eſch. Hen. VI.
[y] Eſch. Edw. IV. [z] Temp. Jac. I.

 ſucceſſively

ſucceſſively in the families of Hall, Draper, and Radcliffe, and is now the property of Mr. John Huſſey.

The manor of Bullocks, alias Whites Place, the property and ſeat of George Hanmer Leyceſter eſq. was purchaſed by his grand-father, George Leyceſter eſq. in 1763. It had been, by purchaſe, the property of Ralph Moore, who died ſeiſed of it in 1577[a]; and was afterwards in the family of Smith[b]. Part of the manor of Hyndens, formerly mentioned[c], extends into this pariſh. The Norris family, who were its ancient owners, had another eſtate in this pariſh, called the manor of Elynton and Spencers. The prior and convent of Biſham had a manor in Cookham, given them by their founder, the Earl of Saliſbury. The Brocas family had a manor here in the fifteenth century. An eſtate at Babham-end, in this pariſh, ſo called from the ancient family of Babham, was, from 1696 to 1718, the property and reſidence of Henry Waſhington eſq. who, by the tradition of the place, is erroneouſly ſuppoſed to have been anceſtor to the celebrated general of that name. Samuel Young eſq. ſon of Admiral Sir George Young, is the preſent proprietor of this eſtate, in right of his mother, who was daughter of Dr. Battie. Sir George Young has himſelf a villa, near the farm, and holds, in right of his wife, the nominal manor of Elynton above mentioned. It is deſcribed in the record of Domeſday, as a manor, by the name of Elentone. This eſtate, which lies about a mile and a half to the north of Maidenhead, is now deſcribed as the reputed manor of Knight-Ellington, otherwiſe Ealington's, conſiſting of a farm, called Spencer's. The ancient name of Maidenhead is ſaid to have been South-Elington, or Ealington.

In the pariſh church of Cookham are memorials of the families of Farmer of Bradley, Babham, and Weldon. A braſs plate, near the entrance into the chancel, commemorates Sir Edward Stockton, a vicar of this pariſh, who is ſtyled "Pylgrym of Jeruſalem, and canon profeſſed of the houſe of our Lady at Giſborough, in Yorkſhire." The great tithes of Cookham were appropriated to the abbey of Cirenceſter. They are now the property of William Plumer eſq. M. P. who is patron of the vicarage, and has a conſiderable eſtate in this pariſh, called Harwood, which has been in his family ſince the reign of Charles II. It was before that time the property of Sir John Herbert, who purchaſed it of the Weldons. North-town, Cookham-Dean, and Pigmy's-Green, are in this pariſh.

Partly in this pariſh, and partly in that of Bray, ſtands the town of *Maidenhead*, a well-known thoroughfare on the road to Bath and Oxford. Its ancient name is ſaid to have been South-Ealington. The manor of Elentone is deſcribed, as above-

[a] Epitaph in Aſhmole's Berks.

[b] Temp. Jac. I.—From the information of Mr. Payn.

[c] See the account of the pariſh of Bray.

mentioned, in the Norman Survey. Leland tells us (from tradition it is preſumed), that it acquired its preſent name of Maidenhead from the great veneration paid there to the head of a Britiſh Virgin. As the town is called Maydenehithe, or Maidenhithe, in the moſt ancient records which are to be found relating to it[d], perhaps it may be thought more probable, that it was originally the name of the ſpot where the bridge now is, and where there was in ancient times a great wharf for timber[e]. Before the building of the bridge, the great road, which now paſſes through Maidenhead, went through Burnham, and croſſed the Thames near Cookham, at Babham ferry, oppoſite to which is ſtill to be ſeen a hollow way, now almoſt overgrown, leading up Cliefden hill. Camden dates the building of the bridge about the year 1400; but it is evident, from records, that it was built ſome time before the year 1297[f]. It is not improbable that a new town aroſe ſoon after this, on the ſite of a hamlet, which had been called South-Elyngton, to diſtinguiſh it from the ſite of a manor of the ſame name, which lies a mile and a half more to the north; and that it acquired the name of Maidenhithe from the bridge, which had been ſo called. A chapel was ſoon afterwards built there, dedicated to St. Andrew and St. Mary Magdalen. John Huſbands gave a ſum of money for the endowment of a chantry; and ſome of the principal inhabitants were incorporated in 1352, as the fraternity, or gild, of the brethren and ſiſters of Maydeneth, or Maidenhithe[g]. A charter of King Henry VI. bearing date 1452, places the fraternity under the direction of the chantry prieſt, who was to be called the ſuperviſor, or overſeer. It appears that one of the principal objects of the gild was to keep Maidenhithe bridge in repair; for which purpoſe a toll was granted at the bridge, and a toll for all commodities ſold in the market[h]. After the reformation the town was incorporated anew, by the name of the warden and burgeſſes of Maidenhead. King James II. granted them another charter of incorporation, with the ſtyle of mayor, bridge-maſters, and burgeſſes. Two of the burgeſſes, who are eleven in number, are annually elected bridge-maſters. The high ſteward, the ſteward or recorder, the mayor, and the mayor of the preceding year, are juſtices of the peace. The mayor is clerk of the market, coroner, and judge of a court, which is held once in three weeks. The corporation have the power of making bye-laws. There is a gaol for debtors and felons. The market, granted by the charter of 1452, is ſtill held on Wedneſdays, being a conſiderable mart for corn. There are three annual fairs: Wedneſday in Whitſun Week, Sept. 29, and Nov. 30. The revenues of the

[d] Clauſ. 14 Edw. I. Pat. 26 Edw. I. &c. [e] Leland. [f] The bridge, which was of timber, had then been built long enough to have been decayed, and a toll for three years was granted for its repair. See Pat. 26 Edw. I. [g] This charter is recited in the charter of Hen. VI.
[h] Pat. 30 Hen. VI.

corporation

corporation conſiſt chiefly of the tolls of the market and bridge. The chapel is within the pariſh of Cookham. The ſmall endowment given by Mr. Huſbands, being only 4l. 13s. 4d. *per annum*, has been paid out of the exchequer ſince the diſſolution of chantries. The editor of the Magna Britannia, publiſhed in 1720, ſays, that the miniſter was then choſen by the inhabitants in Common-hall. He is now appointed by the mayor and bridge-maſters. Formerly the appointment was veſted in the vicar of Cookham, with conſent of the vicar of Bray. The chapel is ſaid to be exempt from epiſcopal juriſdiction.

Maidenhead bridge was originally of timber. In 1688 it was fortified to impede the approach of the Prince of Orange towards the metropolis, and its defence entruſted to the Iriſh; but ſome of the townſmen of Maidenhead beating a Dutch march in the night, they took alarm, and abandoned their poſt, leaving their cannon behind them. The foundation of the preſent bridge, of which Sir Robert Taylor was the architect, was laid in 1772. One of the piers divides the counties of Berks and Buckingham. Between Maidenhead bridge and the town, on the Cookham ſide, is a villa, belonging to Sir Iſaac Pocock: nearer to the town is an alms-houſe, founded in 1659, by James Smith eſq. ſalter and citizen of London, for eight poor men and their wives, endowed by him with 40l. *per annum*, to which Mrs. Smith added 8l. to buy fuel.

The number of inhabitants in Maidenhead, as returned to parliament in 1801, was 949; but either ſome miſtake was made in the enumeration, or the population has been much increaſed within the ſhort time ſince elapſed, for we are credibly informed that the preſent number of inhabitants is at leaſt 1,100.

GREAT COXWELL, in the hundred of Faringdon, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about two miles ſouth-weſt of Faringdon. The manor, which had been part of the royal demeſne, was given by King John, to Beaulieu abbey, in 1204[j]. After the reformation, it was granted to the family of Morys or Mores, who had been leſſees under the abbey[k]. In this family it continued till the year 1638, when it was purchaſed by Sir Henry Pratt bart. from whom it deſcended to the preſent proprietor, the Earl of Radnor[l]. The manor-houſe, great barn, and ſome lands annexed, did not paſs with the manor, but were purchaſed in 1700, under Lady Pratt's will, by her grandſon, George Pratt Richmond, alias Webb eſq.[m] from

[j] Dugdale's Monaſticon, Vol. II. [k] See Bib. Top. Brit. [l] See the account of Coleſhill, p. 264.

[m] Lady Pratt, by her will, bearing date July 14, 1697, directed the whole of her eſtate at Coxwell, to be ſold, to pay her debts, or at leaſt ſuch part as ſhould be ſufficient for that purpoſe. The manor-houſe and barn above-mentioned, and 150 acres of land, being ſold purſuant to this direction, were purchaſed by her grand-ſon, Dec. 16, 1700. See the Hiſtory of Great Coxwell, in the Bibl. Top. Brit.

whom

whom it deſcended to John Richmond Webb eſq. lately deceaſed. The great barn above-mentioned, is much inferior in ſize to that of Cholſey, being only 148 feet by 40, but it is a remarkably fine piece of maſonry, and may probably laſt as many centuries as have elapſed ſince it was built by the abbots of Beaulieu. The walls are four feet thick, and the roof is ſupported by two rows of large upright timbers, reſting upon maſſy ſtone piers.

It is ſaid in the Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica, that there was a cell of Ciſtercians at Coxwell, but no authority is quoted; and it ſeems by records in the Cartulary of Beaulieu abbey, of which a liſt is given in the ſame work, that they had only a grange there[n].

In the church are ſome tombs of the family of Mores, anceſtors of Edward Rowe Mores, the antiquary, who projected a Hiſtory of Berkſhire, but had made little progreſs in the undertaking, as appears by his papers, publiſhed in the Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica. He had cauſed engravings to be made of the church at Coxwell, the manor-houſe, great barn, &c. which were publiſhed in No. XIII. of the above-mentioned work. In the chancel-window are the arms of the ſeveral poſſeſſors of the manor, put up by the Earl of Radnor, who is impropriator of the great tithes, which belonged to Beaulieu abbey. The biſhop of Saliſbury is patron of the vicarage.

CUMNER, in the hundred of Hormer, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about three miles nearly weſt of Oxford. The manor belonged, from a very early period, to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. Cumner-houſe, which had been always reſerved in the hands of the abbots, as a place of retirement in caſe of ſickneſs or plague, at Abingdon, was granted by King Henry VIII. to Thomas Penthecoſt, alias Rowland, the laſt abbot for life[o]. After his death it was the ſeat of Anthony Forſter eſq. who lies buried in Cumner church. His epitaph repreſents him as a very amiable man, very learned, a great muſician, builder, and planter; but his character ſtands by no means clear of the imputation of having been acceſſary to the murder of the Counteſs of Leiceſter, at his own houſe at Cumner, whither ſhe was ſent for that purpoſe by her huſband; Sir Richard Verney, one of the Earl's retainers, was the chief agent in this horrid buſineſs[p]. A chamber is ſhewn in the ruined manſion, which adjoins the church-yard at Cumner, called the Dudley-Chamber, where the counteſs is ſaid to have been murdered, and afterwards thrown down ſtairs, to make it appear that her death was accidental[q]. She was buried at Cumner, but her body was afterwards removed to St. Mary's Church, in Oxford. The

[n] See Bibl. Top. Brit. No. XIII. p. 2. and p. 12. [o] Leland's Collectanea, vol. VI. p. 195—199.

[p] See Aſhmole's Berkſhire. [q] Dugdale mentions the Counteſs of Leiceſter's death, as happening at Mr. Forſter's houſe at Cumner, by a fall down ſtairs "*as 'twas ſaid.*" Baronage, vol. II.

manor

manor of Cumner was granted, in 1546, to George Owen eſq. and John Bridges M. D. and paſſed afterwards to Anthony Forſter above-mentioned. It now belongs to the Earl of Abingdon, in whoſe family it has been for many years. Part of the old manſion, which was formerly the abbot's place, is fitted up as a farm-houſe. The ſhell of the remainder, though in a ſtate of dilapidation, is nearly entire; ſome part of it appears to have been rebuilt after the reformation, by Mr. Forſter. Over a chimney-piece, in one of the rooms, are the arms of the abbey of Abingdon, a lion rampant, and ſome other coats. This manſion, which was the rectorial-houſe, is held on leaſe, under the Earl of Abingdon, together with the great tithes.

There are ſeven tithings in this pariſh, Cumner, Whitley, Stroud, Hill-end, Swinford, Botley, and Chawley. At Chilſwell-farm, in ſome records called a manor, was formerly a chapel[r]: this farm belongs to the Earl of Abingdon. A farm in this pariſh, called Bradley, belongs to Merton College.

In the pariſh church are two ancient tombs in the ſouth tranſept, ſuppoſed to be thoſe of two abbots of Abingdon; the monument of Anthony Forſter, before mentioned, and a modern tablet, in memory of Dr. Benjamin Buckler, the late vicar, editor of the Stemmata Chicheleiana, and keeper of the archives in the univerſity of Oxford. In the church-yard is the tomb of Richard Brown, a ſhepherd, aged 109. Francis Drope, author of a book on the management of fruit-trees, formerly in much eſteem, and his brother John, a phyſician and poet, were both natives of this pariſh, of which their father was vicar[s].

The great tithes of Cumner, which were appropriated to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, and the patronage of the vicarage, have paſſed with the manor. The pariſhioners, who pay vicarial tithes, claim a cuſtom of being entertained at the vicarage, on the afternoon of Chriſtmas-day, with four buſhels of malt brewed into ale and beer, two buſhels of wheat made into bread, and half a hundred weight of cheeſe. The remainder is given to the poor, the next morning after divine ſervice[t].

Denchworth, in the hundred of Wanting, and deanery of Abingdon, lies about three miles north of Wantage, and nearly nine miles to the ſouth-weſt of Abingdon. The manor of South-Denchworth belonged to David Martun, Biſhop of St. David's, who died in 1328[u]. It was afterwards in the Corbets; Sir Roger Corbet died ſeiſed of it in 1417. His daughter and ſole heir, Sybella, married John Grevell[x]. The manor afterwards became the property of the Hydes, who,

[r] See Dr. Buckler's anſwer to Rowe Mores's Queries in Bib. Top. Brit. No. XIII. [s] Ant. Wood. [t] Dr. Buckler's anſwer to Rowe Mores's Queries. [u] Eſch. 2 Edw. III. [x] Eſch. 5 Hen. V.

by

by ſome fabulous tradition in the family, were ſaid to have poſſeſſed it from the time of King Canute. A pedigree of the Hydes, in the Britiſh Muſeum[y], ſtates Sir George Hyde K. B. who died in 1625, and ſold the manor of South-Denchworth to Sir William Cockayne, to have been the ſixth in deſcent from the firſt of that family who ſettled at Denchworth, which will not be found inconſiſtent with the records which prove the manor to have been in the Corbets ſo late as the commencement of the fifteenth century. Lord Viſcount Cullen, ſon of Sir William Cockayne, ſold South-Denchworth to the Geerings, of whom it was purchaſed, in 1758, by the provoſt and ſcholars of Worceſter college in Oxford.

The manor of Upper and Lower-Circourt, in this pariſh, which was formerly alſo in the Cockaynes, is now the property of Sir Charles Saxton bart. whoſe father purchaſed it of the family of Matthews. In the pariſh church are ſeveral monuments of the Hydes and Geerings. One of the former has an epitaph, conſiſting of ſome very lame verſes, all of which end with the name of Hyde. Over the porch is a ſmall library for the uſe of the vicars, given, in 1693, by Gregory Geering eſq. then lord of the manor. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the monaſtery of Bruerne in Oxfordſhire, were purchaſed of the Geerings, together with the manor, by the provoſt and ſcholars of Worceſter college in Oxford, who are patrons of the vicarage. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1801, when allotments of land were aſſigned in lieu of the rectorial and vicarial tithes.

DIDCOT, or DUDCOT, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about ſix miles weſt of Wallingford (near the road to Wantage), and about the ſame diſtance from Abingdon. The manor belonged anciently to the Blunts[z] and Stonors[a]. It is now the property of William Baker eſq. who purchaſed it a few years ago of the Blakes. In the pariſh church is a tomb of Sir Richard Blake, who died in 1709. The principal and ſcholars of Brazen-noſe college in Oxford are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. It belonged formerly to the priory of Marlow, in Buckinghamſhire[b].

DRAYTON, in the hundred of Hormer, lies two miles to the ſouth-weſt of Abingdon. The manor which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon was granted, together with the impropriate rectory and advowſon, by King Henry VIII. to Sir Anthony St. Leger K. G. by whoſe family it was ſold, in 1561, to John Southcote eſq. Serjeant at Law. Philip Southcote eſq. the laſt heir male of this

[y] Harl. MS. 1535. [z] Cart. 33 Edw. I. [a] Eſch. Edw. III. & Ric. II. [b] Pat. 3 Ric. II. Pt. 3.

family,

family, died in 1758; the manor, rectory, and advowſon of Draycot, are now, purſuant to the limitations of his will, the property of his relation, Sir William Jerningham bart. Drayton was formerly a chapel appendant to St. Helen's, Abingdon, the preſent vicar of which church was inſtituted to his vicarage, with the chapel of Drayton annexed: but the vicars have not officiated there for many years, nor exerciſed the right of appointing a curate. Drayton is a ſeparate pariſh; the benefice is of very ſmall value.

EATON-HASTINGS, in the hundred of Ock, and deanery of Abingdon, is a very ſmall village, lying about four miles north-weſt of Faringdon, in a retired ſituation, to the north of the road to Lechlade. In 1298, Benedict Blakenham conveyed the manor, of which William de Haſtings had died ſeiſed in 1270[d], to Hugh St. Philibert[e]. After the death of John Baron St. Philibert, in 1352[f], it came to the crown, and was granted by Edward III. in 1358, to Sir William Truſſell[g], in whoſe family it continued above a century[h]. It was afterwards ſucceſſively in the Wenmans[i] and Martens[k]. Of late years it has been in the Barrington family, and is now veſted in the biſhop of Durham, and other truſtees, under the will of William Lord Barrington, who died in 1793.

The only monumental inſcription in the pariſh church worthy of remark, is that of the Rev. Henry Beeke, rector, who died in 1670; his epitaph informs us that, out of the ſmall produce of this living, he increaſed his patrimony, bought farms, and left a handſome fortune to his nephews and nieces.

The Rev. Richard Rice, the preſent incumbent, is patron of the rectory. The pariſh contains about 1500 acres of land.

ENBORNE, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies about two miles and a half nearly weſt of Newbury. The manor of Eaſt Enborne was ſucceſſively in the families of Rogers[l] and Eſſex. Sir William Eſſex gave it to King Henry VIII. in 1543. The manor of Weſt Enborne, or Enborne-Cheney, was ſucceſſively in the families of Cranleye[m], Wodelock[n], St. Amand[o], and Cheyne. John Cheyne gave it to King Henry VIII. in 1542. Sir Thomas Gawdy poſſeſſed both theſe manors in 1588[p]. Sir Thomas Parry, of Hampſted-Marſhall, was poſſeſſed of both in 1590; they were afterwards in the Babingtons[q], and, in or about the year 1622, became

[d] Eſch. 6 Edw. I. [e] Clauſ. 26 Edw. I. [f] Eſch. 26 Edw. III. [g] Pat. 32 Edw. III.
[h] Eſch. 3 Edw. IV. [i] Eſch. Ph. & Mar. & Eliz. [k] It is probable that it was purchaſed of Harry Marten, the regicide, by Mr. Wildman, and paſſed with the Shrivenham eſtate to the Barringtons. See the account of that pariſh. [l] Eſch. Hen. VIII. [m] Inq. ad q. d. 1 Edw. II.
[n] Eſch. Edw. III. [o] Eſch. Hen. IV. [p] Eſch. Eliz. [q] Eſch. Jac. I.

the property of Sir William Craven, from whom they have deſcended to the preſent proprietor, the Earl of Craven.

There is a remarkable and well-known ancient cuſtom in theſe manors, that if the widow of a copyholder ſhould marry again, or be guilty of incontinency, ſhe forfeits her free-bench, or life intereſt, in her late huſband's copyhold, which is not recoverable but by her ſubmitting to ride into court upon a black ram repeating ſome ludicrous lines[r], which end with a petition for her huſband's land, on which the ſteward of the manor is obliged to reinſtate her in the copyhold. At every court, the jury ſtill preſent this as one of the ancient cuſtoms of the manor: the penalty has not been literally enforced within the memory of man, but it is ſaid that a pecuniary commutation has been received in lieu of it, which perhaps may have been more readily accepted, from the difficulty of procuring a proper animal for the purpoſe. The ſame ſingular cuſtom prevailed in the manor of Chaddleworth. Lord Craven is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

ENGLEFIELD, in the hundred of Theale, and deanery of Newbury, lies about ſix miles and a half nearly weſt of Reading, a little to the north of the Bath road.

This place was the ſite of a well-known battle between the Danes and the Saxons in 871.

The manor of Englefield was held under the baronial family of Somery in 1272[s], and, probably at a much earlier period, by a very ancient family, who took their name from the village. The pedigrees of the family repreſent them as having been ſettled at Englefield for ſix deſcents before John Englefield, who was of this place in the reign of Henry III. Roger de Englefield was knight of the ſhire in 1307. His deſcendants frequently filled the ſame ſituation, and ſerved the office of ſheriff. Sir Thomas Englefield, who died in 1513, was ſpeaker of the Houſe of Commons and Juſtice of Cheſter; his ſon, Sir Thomas, was one of the juſtices of the Common Pleas. Sir Francis, his grandſon, having been convicted of adhering to Mary Queen of Scots, fled the kingdom, and was attainted of high treaſon[t]. This manor, having been thereby forfeited to the crown, was granted by Queen Elizabeth to her ſecretary, Sir Francis Walſingham[u]. Francis Englefield, nephew of Sir Francis above-mentioned, was created a baronet in 1612, being deſcribed of Wotton Baſſet, in Wiltſhire. His poſterity occaſionally reſided at a houſe in this village, which had been, for ſo many generations, the abode of their anceſtors. It was ſold in 1792 by Sir Henry Charles Englefield the preſent baronet.

[r] See Jacob's Law Dictionary, and the ninth volume of the Spectator. [s] Eſch. Edw. I.
[t] Baronetage. [u] From the information of Mr. Benyon.

From

From Sir Francis Walſingham, the manor of Engleſield paſſed with his daughter and heir to the Earl of Clanrickard, and afterwards to John, Marquis of Wincheſter, who married Lady Honora Burgh, the Earl's daughter. Engleſield became the chief ſeat of the Marquis of Wincheſter, after the demolition of Baſing-houſe. Sir Balthazer Gerbier having publiſhed, in 1663, a treatiſe called "Counſel and Advice to all Builders," takes occaſion, in his dedication to the Marquis of Wincheſter, to commend Engleſield (or, as he calls it, Henfelde) houſe. He deſcribes it as "a well ſeated palace, with a wood at its back like a mantle about a coat of arms;" and ſays, that "its preſent ſatisfaction muſt diminiſh its owner's grief for the loſs of Baſing." Anne, daughter and ſole heir of Lord Francis Pawlet, only ſurviving ſon of the Marquis by his ſecond wife, brought this eſtate to the Rev. Nathan Wright, a younger ſon of the Lord Keeper. On the death of his ſon Nathan, in 1789, Engleſield devolved to the late Richard Benyon eſq. ſon of Governor Benyon by the widow of Pawlet Wright, elder brother of the laſt mentioned Nathan. It is now the property and ſeat of Richard Benyon eſq. grandſon of the governor. The houſe is a conſpicuous object from the Bath road.

Sir Edward Norris, a military character of ſome celebrity, who particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the taking of the Groyne, had a ſeat at Engleſield in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who dined with him there during her ſtay at Reading in 1601[x]. Sir Edward Norris lies buried at Engleſield[y]. Elias Aſhmole the Herald and Antiquary, whoſe collections for this county have been publiſhed ſince his deceaſe, retired to this village in 1647, where we are told he purſued his ſtudies very cloſely, and amuſed his vacant hours with botany[z].

In the pariſh church are ſeveral monuments of the Engleſield family, by whom the North aiſle of the chancel was built for a burial place in 1514. The inſcriptions in memory of Sir Thomas Engleſield, the Speaker; Sir Thomas Engleſield, the Juſtice of the Common Pleas; and ſome others, recorded by Aſhmole, have been removed; the Speaker's *monument* remains on the north ſide of the chancel. Sir Francis Engleſield, the firſt baronet, was buried in 1631; Sir Henry, the late baronet, in 1780. In the ſouth aiſle, under two obtuſe arches, are the figures of a cruſader in mail and ſurcoat, and a lady. In this aiſle is the monument of John, Marquis of Wincheſter, who defended Baſing-houſe againſt the Parliamentary army: he died in 1674. On this monument are the following lines:

"He who in impious times untainted ſtood,
And midſt rebellion durſt be great and good,

[x] Queen Elizabeth's Progreſſes. [y] Aſhmole. [z] Biograph. Brit.

Whoſe arms aſſerted, and whoſe ſufferings more,
Confirm'd the cauſe for which he fought before;
Reſts here rewarded by an heavenly prince,
For what his earthly could not recompenſe;
Pray reader, that ſuch times no more appear,
Or if they happen, learn true honour here.
Aſk of thy ages faith and loyalty,
Which, to preſerve them, Heaven confirm'd in thee:
Few ſubjects could a king like thine deſerve,
And fewer ſuch a king ſo well could ſerve;
Bleſt king, bleſt ſubject, whoſe exalted ſtate,
By ſufferings roſe, and gave the law to fate;
Such ſouls are rare, but mighty patterns given
To earth, were meant for ornaments to heaven.
By JOHN DRYDEN, Poet Laureat."

The remainder of the epitaph, which is in proſe (written by Sir Edward Walker, garter king at arms), ſpeaks of the marquis as a man of exemplary piety towards God, and of inviolable fidelity towards his ſovereign, in whoſe cauſe he fortified his houſe at Baſing, and defended it againſt the rebels to the laſt extremity. The remainder is a diffuſe account of his marriages and iſſue. In the ſame aiſle are memorials of his ſecond lady Honora Marchioneſs of Wincheſter, their eldeſt ſon, and their daughter Lady Honora. There are ſome monuments alſo of the family of Wright. Mr. Benyon is patron of the rectory.

FARINGDON, a market town by preſcription, 71 miles from London, on the road to Cirenceſter, now gives name to a hundred, but was anciently ſituated within the hundred of Wifol. The firſt charter on record, relating to this town, is that of 1218[a], which grants a market on Mondays to the abbot of Beaulieu; but it appears by the charter of 1313[b], which changed the market-day to Wedneſday, that the burgeſſes had held a market on Monday long before the grant to the abbot. The market is now held on Tueſday. There are three annual fairs; Old Candlemas-day, Whitſun Tueſday, and October 29th, beſides a ſtatute fair on the 18th of October for hiring ſervants. A fair is held at Wadley in this pariſh on the 6th of April. The town is governed by a bailiff and inferior officers. According to the returns made to parliament, under the population act, in 1801, Faringdon and its hamlets contained 1916 inhabitants.

Faringdon was part of the ancient demeſne of the crown. The Saxon kings had a palace there, in which Edward the Elder, a brave and ſucceſsful monarch, paid the debt of nature, in 925[c]. In the year 1144, Robert, Earl of Glouceſter, built a

[a] Cl. 2 Hen. III. [b] Cart. 6 Ed. II. [c] Sax. Chron.

caſtle at Faringdon, which he fortified and defended againſt King Stephen; but after a cloſe ſiege of four days, it was taken and razed to the ground [d]. In 1203, King John gave the manor of Faringdon to ſome Ciſtercian monks, who had ſettled in this town, on condition of their building a monaſtery there; but the next year, having himſelf founded a convent of that order at Beaulieu in Hampſhire, the donation was transferred to them. A few monks remained at Faringdon in a ſmall houſe which became a cell to Beaulieu abbey. It appears by an ancient account-book of that monaſtery, in the Bodleian library, that King Henry III. his Queen, Prince Edward, and Roger de Mortimer his favourite general, on ſome occaſion, ſpent a night at Faringdon, being entertained at the coſt of the abbot and convent; the expence of the king's entertainment amounted to 100s. 6d. the queen's to 75s. Prince Edward's to 50s. 6d. and the general's to only 4s. The date does not appear.

At Radcot bridge, ſituated at the extremity of this pariſh, was fought the battle between Robert Vere, Duke of Ireland, Richard the Second's favourite, and the Earl of Derby (afterwards King Henry IV.) and other confederate lords. The duke was defeated and eſcaped by flight, croſſing the river at the hazard of his life [e]. King Charles was at Faringdon ſoon after the ſecond battle of Newbury [f]. Faringdon-houſe was made a royal garriſon, of which Sir Marmaduke Rawdon was appointed governor. Cromwell made an unſucceſsful attempt upon this garriſon, in the month of June 1645, with 600 men, from the garriſon of Abingdon [g]; a ſecond attack equally unſucceſsful was made the next year, under the command of Sir Robert Pye, the owner of the houſe [h]. Sir George Liſle was then governor. In this attack, the ſpire of Faringdon church is ſaid to have been beaten down. Faringdon was one of the laſt places which held out for the king; it was not ſurrendered till the month of June 1646, when the governor gave it up to the parliament, purſuant to the articles for the ſurrender of Oxford, in which Faringdon was included [i].

The manor of Faringdon, which became again veſted in the crown by the diſſolution of Beaulieu abbey, was granted by Queen Mary to Sir Francis Engleſield, after whoſe attainder, Queen Elizabeth gave it to Sir Henry Unton. It was purchaſed of Sir John Wentworth and other repreſentatives of the Unton family, in the year 1622, by Sir Robert Pye, in whoſe family it continued till the year 1788, when it was ſold by Henry James Pye eſq. the preſent poet laureat, ſome time one of the repreſentatives in parliament for this county, to William Hallet eſq. the preſent proprietor. Mr. Hallet has alſo the manor of Wyke which belonged to Beaulieu abbey, and has paſſed by the ſame title.

[d] Holinſhed. [e] Ibid. [f] Clarendon. [g] Nov. 1, 1644. See Sir Edward Walker's Hiſtorical Diſcourſes, p. 120, 121. [h] Note to Pye's "Faringdon Hill," a poem.
[i] Heath's Chronicle, p. 107.

It

It appears by the ancient MS. in the Bodleian library already mentioned, that a very ſingular cuſtom prevailed in the manor of Great Faringdon, ſomewhat ſimilar to the mode of puniſhing the incontinency of widows in the manors of Chaddleworth and Enborne. Every tenant's daughter, on being convicted of this crime, forfeited the ſum of 40d. (a conſiderable ſum in the reign of Henry III.) to the lord of the manor, which was not to be remitted, but on condition of the offender's appearing in the lord's court, *carrying a black ſheep on her back*, and making confeſſion of her ſhame[k]. The manor of *Little Coxwell*, a hamlet of this pariſh (where is a chapel of eaſe), belonged alſo to Beaulieu abbey, and has paſſed with Great Coxwell to the preſent proprietor, the Earl of Radnor. The manor of Orde or Worde (now Littleworth), was anciently a member of the manor of Faringdon. It was granted by King Stephen to the monks of Thame[l], who, having ſurrendered it into the hands of King Henry II. that monarch gave it to the abbey of Stanley, in Wiltſhire. By ſome ſubſequent reſignation or exchange, it again reverted to the crown, and by the name, Word, or Wykingeſham, was granted, together with the manor of Wadley (which appears alſo to have belonged to Stanley abbey, as an appurtenance of Word[m]), ſucceſſively to the families of Pembrugge and Talbot[n]. King Henry V. granted the reverſion of theſe manors to his brave comrade in arms, Sir Thomas Erpingham[o]; but it does not appear, that he was ever actually in poſſeſſion. They were afterwards granted to Sir William Porter[p]; after his death, which happened in 1436[q], and that of Margaret Lady Talbot, who had an intereſt in them by way of dower, King Henry VI. gave both manors to the provoſt and ſcholars of Oriel College, in Oxford[r], under whom they have been ever ſince held on leaſe. The preſent leſſee is William Yarnton Mills eſq. who purchaſed this eſtate of the Pyes, in 1802. Wadley was, as early as 1531, the ſeat of the Untons or Umptons[s], from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the Purefoys. Henry Purefoy eſq. of Wadley, was created a baronet in 1662. The title has long been extinct. Wadley was ſome time ago the ſeat of Charles Pye eſq. who purchaſed the leaſe of Sir Willoughby Aſton bart. about the year 1764. It is now the reſidence of Mr. Mills, the preſent leſſee.

[k] The words of the record are, "Si filia cujuſquam (ſc. tenentis) fuerit deprehenſa in fornicatione, dabit domino quadraginta denarios, vel portabit nigrum ovem ad curiam domini, ſcilicet ſuper dorſum ſuum, et dicet, Ecce porto pudorem poſterioris mei."

[l] It is not clear from the grant, which is without date, amongſt the collection of ancient charters at the tower, who was the donor, but the recital in King Henry II.'s charter to the abbot and convent of Stanley, makes it ſufficiently apparent, by ſtating, that it was given by the king's enemies to the monks of Thame, and by them ſurrendered to him. See Dugdale's Monaſticon.

[m] See Pope Nicholas's Taxation. [n] See Eſch. 49 Edw. III. Pat. 50 Ed. III. and Eſch. 12 H. VI.

[o] See Eſch. 6 and 12 Hen. VI. [p] Pat. 3 Hen. V. [q] Eſch. 14 Hen. VI.

[r] Pat. 18 Hen. VI. [s] Thomas Umpton eſq. was ſheriff that year.

The

The parish church of Faringdon is a spacious edifice of the earliest style of Gothic architecture. The low square tower is said to have sustained a spire destroyed in the civil war. In a chapel on the north side, called the Unton aisle, are monuments of the Purefoys of Wadley, and their ancestors Sir Alexander, Sir Edward, Sir Thomas, and Sir Henry Unton; that of Sir Alexander has figures in brass, of himself and his lady, habited in surcoats, with their arms blazoned. Sir Henry Unton, who resided at Wadley, was knighted for his bravery at the siege of Zutphen. He was twice ambassador from Queen Elizabeth to the court of France, where he distinguished himself, by sending a spirited challenge [t] to the Duke of Guise, for speaking disrespectfully of his mistress. Sir Henry died during his second embassy, in 1596. His corpse was brought to England and buried at Faringdon; a baron's hearse being allowed him, as having been at the time of his death the queen's ambassador-leiger. A MS. account of his embassy, written by himself, is preserved in the Bodleian library. In the eastern part of the north aisle, which is called the Pleydell aisle, are memorials for the families of Pleydell and Pye. Sir Robert Pye, who died in 1701, married a daughter of the celebrated Hampden; they lived together 60 years, and died within a week of each other. In the nave is the tomb of Sir Marmaduke Rawdon, governor of Faringdon, who successfully defended the garrison against an attack of the parliamentary army, and died April 26, 1646.

Leland mentions a chapel in the church-yard at Faringdon, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and a chantry founded by the Cheynes. There are no remains of either. The rectory of Faringdon was formerly a prebendal corps in the church of Salisbury, but has long ago been dissolved, and made a lay-fee; the impropriation, together with the advowson of the vicarage, is now annexed to the manor. The vicarage is within the deanery of Abingdon, but is in the peculiar jurisdiction of the dean of Salisbury. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1771, when allotments of land were assigned to the impropriator and to the vicar. The hamlet of *Little Coxwell*, which was not included under this act, has been inclosed by a subsequent act, under which, allotments of land were assigned to the vicar of Faringdon, and to G. F. Hewitt, James Crowdy, and Elizabeth his wife, as impropriators of the great tithes of that hamlet; an allotment was made to the poor for fuel.

FARNBOROUGH, in the hundred of Compton, lies about five miles to the north-east of Wantage, and about 11 miles north of Newbury. The manor is the property of Fulwar Craven esq. whose father, the late Rev. John Craven, acquired it

[t] Printed in Fuller's Worthies.

in

in marriage with the daughter of Sir Jemmet Raymond, who, it is probable, inherited it, as he did his other eſtates in this county, from the Jemmets. In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the family of Price. The Rev. Ralph Price is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury; the advowſon belonged formerly to the abbey of Abingdon. This pariſh has been incloſed, purſuant to an act of parliament, paſſed in 1777, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes. It appears by the act, that the lord of the manor was entitled to two-thirds of the tithes of 18 yard lands.

FAWLEY, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, and deanery of Newbury, lies about five miles ſouth of Wantage, and about four miles north-eaſt of Lambourn. The manor of North-Fawley, with the church and the tithes of South Fawley, belonged from a very remote period, to the nuns of Ambreſbury. The lay manor, which, at the time of taking the Norman Survey, was parcel of the royal demeſne, was, during the 14th century, by the name of South-Fawley, in the ancient family of Polhampton[v], afterwards in the Kingſtons[w]. Some time after the reformation, both theſe manors became the property of Sir Francis Moore, author of the Reports, who had a ſeat at South Fawley. His ſon Henry was created a baronet in 1627. This family have been erroneouſly ſuppoſed to be deſcendants of Sir Thomas More. Neither the name nor arms are the ſame, nor does there appear to have been any connection between the families. Sir Thomas Moore bart. who now reſides in Hampſhire, is the preſent repreſentative of the Moores of Fawley; the manor of which place was ſold by Sir John Moore, in 1765, to the Vanſittarts, of whoſe family it was purchaſed, in 1778, by Batholomew Tipping eſq. They are now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton and Mary Anne his wife, who was Mr. Tipping's niece, and ſole heireſs.

In the church is a memorial for Mary the wife of William Beverley eſq. of Chaneho[x] in Bedfordſhire, who died in 1658, having lived a widow 57 years. She was mother of Dame Elizabeth Moore of South-Fawley.

The great tithes, which belonged to the nuns of Ambreſbury, are the property of Mr. and Mrs. Wroughton, who are patrons of the vicarage.

FINCHAMPSTED, in the hundred of Charlton, and deanery of Reading, lies three miles and a half to the ſouth-weſt of Wokingham. There were two manors in this pariſh; from a very early period; one of them which belonged, in 1306, to the family of Huſe or Hoeſe[y], paſſed about 1369, by a female heir, to the Colneyes[z],

[v] Eſch. Edw. III. Richard de Polhamptonwas ſheriff in 1311. and 1312. [w] Eſch. Edw. IV.
[x] Perhaps Caiſhoe. [y] Eſch. Edw. I.—Edw. III. [z] Eſch. 43 Edw. III.

and

and was afterwards in the Pakenhams, who, in the reign of King Henry VI. procured a charter for an annual fair on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Whitsun-week[a]. In 1538, Edmund Mervyn, serjeant at law, who had married Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Sir Edmund Pakenham, conveyed this manor, by the name of East-Court, to Stephen Cawood. In 1560, Thomas Cawood conveyed it to the families of Hinde and Harrison. In 1583, the Harrisons had a renewed grant of the Whitsuntide fair, which has been now long discontinued. In 1661, Richard Harrison esq. son of Sir Richard Harrison of Hurst, sold the manor of East-Court to Richard Palmer esq. by whose descendant it was bequeathed to Henry Fyshe esq. of Ickwell in Bedfordshire, father of Charles Fyshe Palmer esq. the present proprietor.

The other manor, now called West-Court, was confirmed to Robert Achard, in 1318[b], and passed, by female heirs, to the De la Mares and Forsters, under whom, as superior lords, it was held by the family of Perkins[c], as early as the year 1508. From this family it passed, by purchase, to George Tattershall esq. of Stapleford, in the county of Wilts, whose daughter brought it in marriage to the Honourable Charles Howard, fourth son of the Earl of Arundel. It is now the property of the Rev. Ellis St. John, whose father's maternal uncle, James Goodyer esq. purchased it of Mr. Howard. An annual fair is held on the first Wednesday in April, within Mr. St. John's manor. *Everſley* is a hamlet in this parish.

FRILSHAM, or FRIDLESHAM, a very small village in the hundred of Faircross, lies about eight miles to the north-east of Newbury. Sir Hugh Berwick died seised of the manor in 1409[d]: in 1424 it was in the Hautes[e]; afterwards in the Norris family[f], from whom it passed, by marriage, to the Berties. The late Earl of Abingdon sold it, about the year 1762, to Sir George Cornewall, of whom it was purchased in 1800, together with the advowson of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury, by the present proprietor, Mr. Hayward.

FYFIELD, formerly FYFHIDE, in the hundred of Ock, lies about five miles from Abingdon, and nine from Faringdon, on the London road. It was formerly the property and seat of the family of Golafre. John Golafre was knight of the shire in 1337. Sir John Golafre was employed in an embassy to France, in 1389[g]. Either this Sir John Golafre, or a son of the same name, died seised of the manor of

[a] Cart. 27—39 Hen. VI. [b] Cart. Edw. II. [c] Ancient Survey of the manor of Aldermaston, in the possession of Mr. Congreve. [d] Esch. 25 Hen. VI. [e] Placit. &c. de terris in Turr. Lond. Co. Berks. No. 38. [f] Esch. Hen. VII. [g] Knighton inter Decem Scriptores, p. 2698.

Fyfield, in 1442[h]. The ſame year a licence was granted by the crown, for the foundation of a chantry, at the altar of St. John the Baptiſt, purſuant to the will of Sir John Golafre, who is ſtyled in the charter, ſervant to King Henry V. and King Henry VI.; the chaplain of the chantry was to be called maſter of the Houſe of St. John the Baptiſt, at Fyfield[i]. It was endowed with Fyfield Grove, and the manors of Baldwin's Court and Wyke, in Charlton. Francis Little, in his MS. Hiſtory of Abingdon[k], ſays that the daughter and heir of the laſt-mentioned Sir John Golafre married John De la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, who loſt his life at the battle of Stoke, and was attainted of treaſon. The manor and advowſon of Fyfield were purchaſed of the repreſentatives of Lady Gordon, who died about the year 1527, by Sir Thomas White, who gave them to the preſident and ſcholars of St. John's College, in Oxford, founded by him in 1555: the preſent leſſee under the college is Mr. John Dalton.

In the north aiſle of the pariſh church is the monument of Sir John Golafre, who died in 1442. His effigies in armour lies on an open altar tomb, beneath which is the figure of a ſkeleton in a ſhroud. The common people call it Gulliver's tomb, and ſay, that the figure on the top repreſents him in the vigour of youth; the ſkeleton in his old age: the arms of Golafre are on the tomb, and in the windows of the church. In the ſame aiſle are ſeveral memorials of the family of White, who reſided at Fyfield, and were, till of late years, leſſees of the manor, by virtue of a grant from their collateral anceſtor, Sir Thomas White, to his brother, previouſly to the foundation of the college. On the north ſide of the chancel is an altar tomb, from which the braſs plates have been removed, in memory of Lady Gordon, above mentioned. It ſtands under an obtuſe arch, with a roof of rich tracery blue and gold; over the arch is a cornice, of gilt foliage. The editor of Aſhmole's Collections ſays, it was called the monument of Lady Gorgon. In the chancel are memorials of the families of Dale and Perrot, of North-Leigh, deſcended from Sir Thomas White's ſiſter. Charles Perrot LL. D. who died in 1686, was thrice choſen to repreſent the univerſity of Oxford, in parliament. The preſident and ſcholars of St. John's College are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The great tithes are veſted in the college. In 1711, an augmentation of 30l. *per annum*, ariſing out of the tithes, was ſettled on the vicar and his ſucceſſors. The Lovedens had a ſeat at Fyfield, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth[l]. A branch of the family of Norris, of Yattendon, were ſettled there, for four generations[m]. John Norris, of Fyfield, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, at Reading, in 1601.

[h] Eſch. 20 Hen. VI. [i] Pat. 20 Hen. VI. [k] See p. 222. [l] Berkſhire Pedigrees, Brit. Muſ. [m] Ibid.

EAST-

EAST-GARSTON, in the hundred of Lambourn, lies about two miles and a half from Lambourn, and about ten from Newbury. In the reign of King John, the manor was the property of Sir Thomas de Londres, or London, Lord of Kidwelly, in Wales, whoſe daughter and heir, Hawiſe, brought it to Patrick de Chaworth[n]. Paine, his ſon, left a daughter and heir, married to Henry Duke of Lancaſter, after whoſe death, on a partition of his eſtates, it paſſed to his eldeſt daughter Maud, who married Ralph, ſon and heir of the Lord Stafford, and afterwards William Duke of Zeland[o]. On the death of the Ducheſs of Bavaria, it was inherited by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaſter, in right of his wife Blanch. This manor was held by the ſervice of finding a knight, clad in plate armour, to ſerve in the king's army, for forty days, at the lord's coſt, whenever he ſhould be in the territory of Kidwelly, in Wales, of which manor this was a member[p]. The Duke of Lancaſter had alſo a manor, called Poghly[q], in this pariſh, which was aſſigned, with Eaſt-Garſton, to his daughter Maud. It is now a farm, the property of Mr. James Harbert. Early in the 17th century, the manor of Eaſt-Garſton belonged to the Gaſtrells[r], in whoſe family it continued a conſiderable time; and having paſſed to the family of Jones of Ramſbury, is now the property of Sir Francis Burdett bart.

The manor, or manor-farm, of Maidencote, in this pariſh, was anciently in the Beauchamps of Hacche[s], afterwards in the Moores, of Fawley[t]. It is now the property of Joſeph Butler eſq.

In the pariſh church are memorials of the families of Gaſtrell, and of the Elſyngs, deſcended from Henry Elſyng, clerk of the Houſe of Lords, in the reign of Charles I. and keeper of his Majeſty's records in the tower of London. Sir Francis Burdettt holds the great tithes on leaſe, under Chriſt's Church College, in Oxford. The dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury. This pariſh has been incloſed, under an act of parliament, paſſed in 1771; the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

GOOSEY, in the hundred of Ock, has a parochial chapel, dependant on Stanford, in the vale of White-horſe, from which it is two miles diſtant. The manor was given to the monks of Abingdon, by king Offa, in exchange for the iſle of Andreſey, in the Thames, near their convent, which he wanted for the purpoſe of building a palace[u]. In the reign of Charles I.[x] it was in the family of Matthews, in whom it continued till it was purchaſed by the father of Clement Saxton eſq. the preſent proprietor.

[n] Eſch. Edw. I. [o] Dugdale's Baronage. [p] Blount's Tenures. [q] Dugdale.
[r] Bib. Top. Brit. [s] Eſch. Edw. III. [t] Eſch. Car. I. [u] Dugdale's Monaſticon.
[x] Eſch.

EAST-HAGBOURN, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about ſix miles north-weſt of Wallingford, and about eight miles nearly ſouth of Abingdon. Sir Edward Walker, in his Hiſtorical Diſcourſes [y], informs us, that the parliamentary army, under the command of the Earl of Eſſex, were quartered at this village, on the 24th of May, 1644, on their route from Reading to Abingdon.

The manor of Eaſt-Hagbourn, with the church, was given by King Henry I. to his newly-founded monaſtery of Cirenceſter [z]. It is probable, that the abbot had an occaſional reſidence here, a park being mentioned in the grant of the manor to Sir Francis Knolles, after the reformation [a]. This manor is now the property of the Earl of Craven, in whoſe family it has been nearly two centuries.

The manor of *Weſt-Hagbourn*, a hamlet in this pariſh, which appears to have had formerly a chapel of eaſe, was in the family of Windſor, from the time of William the Conqueror till the reign of Henry VI. [b] or perhaps later. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, being then in the Newton family, it paſſed, by a female heir, to a younger branch of the Windſors [c]. Sir Andrew Windſor died ſeiſed of it in 1632, ſoon after which it came to the Pococks, and is now the property of John Blagrave Pocock eſq.

The manor of Watlingtons, in Weſt-Hagbourn, was granted in 1231 to Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, and was afterwards in the Windſors [d]. It is now the property of Sir John Pollen bart. who inherits it from the families of Sherwood and Cowper.

The pariſh church is a handſome Gothic ſtructure: the north aiſle was built by John Yorke, who died in 1413, as appears by his epitaph [e]. He married Claricia, relict of Richard de Windſor, and was, in her right, lord of the manor of Weſt-Hagbourn. There are ſome memorials in this church for the family of Keate, of Hodcot; and a ſarcophagus, in memory of the late John Phillips eſq. of Culham.

The great tithes of Eaſt and Weſt-Hagbourn belonged to the abbey of Cirenceſter. They have ſince paſſed, with the manor of Eaſt-Hagbourn, and are now held under Lord Craven, on a leaſe for lives, by John Phillips eſq. of Culham. The Rev. John Scoolt, of Wallingford, is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

[y] Page 14. [z] Dugdale. [a] Records in the Augmentation Office. [b] Eſch. temp. Hen. VI. [c] Eſch. 8 Eliz. [d] Eſch. Car. 1. [e] "Orate ſpecialiter pro animâ Johannis Yorke fundatoris illius *ile* qui obiit, 14 Jul. MCCCCXIII." It is erroneouſly ſtated by Collins, that Richard de Windſor married the relict of John Yorke; for it appears that Richard de Windſor died in 1367, John Yorke in 1413. Collins quotes Aſhmole's Berkſhire, and has miſconſtrued the epitaph of Claricia Wyndſer there printed: that of Yorke is omitted.

Near

Near Hagbourn church is a croſs, with a tall taper ſhaft, on an aſcent of ſteps. At *Croſſcot*, or *Coſtcot*, a ſmall hamlet about half a mile diſtant, is alſo a ſmall croſs; and another by the road ſide between Croſſcot and Hagbourn. An annual fair is held at Eaſt-Hagbourn, on the Thurſday before October 11.

EAST-HAMPSTED, in the hundred of Rippleſmere, lies about three miles to the ſouth-eaſt of Wokingham.

Eaſt-Hampſted park was, for many years, a royal reſidence. We are told that Richard II. went thither to recreate himſelf with hunting, in the month of Auguſt, 1381[f]. In 1531, Queen Catherine, being at Eaſt-Hampſted park, the king ſent ſome of the lords of his council thither to perſuade her to be conformable to his will, and conſent to a divorce[g]. Sir Richard Coningſby was keeper of Eaſt-Hampſted park, in 1607[h]. King James I. appears to have reſided there in 1622[i] and 1623[k]. Soon after this the park was granted to William Trumbull eſq. agent for King James I. and King Charles I. at Bruſſels, and one of the clerks of the Privy Council: from him it deſcended to his grandſon, Sir William Trumbull, one of the principal ſecretaries of ſtate, in the reign of William III. the friend and correſpondent of Pope; who, having ſome years before retired from public life, died at Eaſt-Hampſted, in 1716, and was there buried. His epitaph, written by that poet, is extant in his works, but is not inſcribed on his monument in Eaſt-Hampſted church. In Pope's works, alſo, is to be found the epitaph, written by him on Fenton, the poet, who died at Eaſt-Hampſted in 1732, whilſt on a viſit to Lady Trumbull, Sir William's widow, and was there buried.

The prior and convent of Hurley had a manor at Eaſt-Hampſted, which, after the reformation, was, together with the advowſon of the rectory, in the Lovelace family[l], and afterwards came to the Trumbulls. The advowſon now belongs to Chriſt-Church college, in Oxford. The manor and park are the property of the Marchioneſs of Downſhire, whoſe father, the Hon. Martin Sandys, married the grand-daughter and ſole repreſentative of Sir William Trumbull. Dr. Durell, the late principal of Hertford college, who diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a learned divine and biblical critic, was rector of this pariſh[m].

HAMPSTED-MARSHALL, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies four miles weſt of Newbury, and ſix miles ſouth-eaſt of Hungerford. The manor was ſucceſſively the

[f] Holingſhed. [g] Ibid. [h] Norden's Survey of Windſor Foreſt, in the Britiſh Muſeum.
[i] Sir Francis Engleſield was knighted at Eaſt-Hampſted, in 1622.—Baronetage.
[k] There is a ſermon in print, preached before the court at Eaſt-Hampſted, by George Warburton.
[l] Eſch. Car. I. [m] Biograph. Brit.

property of the Mareſchalls, or Marſhalls, Earls of Pembroke, from whom it took the additional name, the Bigods and Brothertons, Earls of Norfolk, and Earls Marſhall of England [n]. Thomas, Earl of Norfolk, gave it in marriage with his daughter Alice, to William de Montacute, in 1333 [o]. It was afterwards in the family of Hankeford [p]. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it belonged to the Parrys. Camden tells us, that Sir Thomas Parry, treaſurer of the houſhold to that queen, who was ſon of Thomas Parry eſq. of the ſame place [q], built a fine houſe at Hampſted-Marſhall. About the year 1620, this manor paſſed, by purchaſe, to the Cravens; and Hampſted-Marſhall became one of the chief ſeats of that family. In the year 1626, Sir William Craven, ſon of Sir William Craven, Lord Mayor of London, was created Baron Craven, of Hampſted-Marſhall; and, in 1662, for ſervices which he had rendered to his exiled maſter, during the protectorate of Cromwell, and the loſſes which he had ſuſtained by confiſcation, was created an earl. The ſame year, the houſe built by Sir Thomas Parry having been pulled down, Sir Balthazer Gerbier began "a ſtately pile of building" for him at Hampſted-Marſhall, which was finiſhed in the year 1665 [r]. Some clumſy brick-piers, which remain in the park, ornamented with ſphinxes and gryphons, afford but an unfavourable ſpecimen of the architect's taſte. The houſe was almoſt wholly deſtroyed by fire, in 1718 [s]: a ſingular fate for the manſion of this noble earl, who was ſo celebrated for his activity in aſſiſting to extinguiſh fires in the city of London, and its ſuburbs, that it became a common ſaying, that his horſe, for he always attended on horſeback at the firſt notice, ſmelt a fire as ſoon as it happened. Sir Balthazer Gerbier, the architect, who profeſſed alſo the art of painting, and is well known by his eccentric projects and numerous publications, died on a viſit at Hampſted-Marſhall, in 1667, and lies buried in the pariſh church, where, ſince Aſhmole's time [t], the ſlab which covers his remains has been inſcribed with a ſhort epitaph to his memory. Upon the death of Earl Craven, in 1697, the earldom became extinct: the title of Baron Craven, of Hampſted-Marſhall, in conſequence of an entail procured by the earl, devolved to the Cravens, of Combe-Abbey, in Warwickſhire, whoſe deſcendant was created Earl of Craven in 1801, and is now lord of the manor of Hampſted-Marſhall, and patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

[n] Dugdale. [o] Pat. 7 Edw. III. [p] Eſch. Hen. VI. [q] Berkſhire Pedigrees.
[r] See Sir Balthazer's epitaph, at Hampſted-Marſhall. There is a view of this houſe, engraved by Kip, in the Theatre de la Grande Bretagne, pl. 45. [s] Ibid. [t] In Aſhmole's Berkſhire, it is ſaid that there is no inſcription on his tomb.

HAMPSTED-

HAMPSTED-NORRIS, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about ſeven miles to the north-eaſt of Newbury, and about five miles ſouth-eaſt of Ilſley. It was ſucceſſively called Hampſted-Cifrewaſt, Hampſted-Ferrars, and Hampſted-Norris, as the manor ſucceſſively belonged to thoſe families. The Cifrewaſts, or Sifrewaſts, poſſeſſed it in the reign of Henry III. [u] In 1269, Nicholas Sifrewaſt conveyed it in fee to Thomas de Clare, the king's ſecretary [x]. In 1450, William Lord Ferrars, of Chartley, died ſeiſed of the manor of Hampſted-Cifrewaſt, alias Hampſted-Ferrars [y], which his anceſtors had for ſome time poſſeſſed, it having been brought into the family by the daughter and heir of Robert Muſgros, to whom this manor was confirmed by King Edward I. in 1275 [z]. In the reign of Henry VII. this manor was in the Norris family [a], from whom it deſcended to the Berties. The Honourable Peregrine Bertie, brother of the late Earl of Abingdon, ſold it to Sir John Gallini, whoſe ſon, John Andrea Gallini eſq. is the preſent proprietor.

The manor of *Bodenhampſted*, or *Bothampſted*, a hamlet in this pariſh, was ſucceſſively in the De la Beches and Langfords [b]; afterwards in the families of Norris and Bertie, and belongs now to Mr. Gallini.

The manor of Langley, together with the manor or farm of Bradley, in the adjoining pariſh of Chevely, was for many years in the Veres, Earls of Oxford [c]. Langley was afterwards in the De la Poles, of whom it was purchaſed by the anceſtors of Sir Thomas Head knt. [d] whoſe eldeſt ſon, in the year 1769, took the name of James, by act of parliament, in conſequence of inheriting conſiderable eſtates from that family, in the pariſh of Avington, and elſewhere, now the property of his brother, Sir Walter James James, who, in 1791, was created a baronet, being deſcribed of Langley park, which has been his occaſional reſidence. Near the houſe is a chapel of eaſe.

The manor of Colrugge, in this pariſh, was many years in the Windſor family [e]. Sir Hugh Berwyk died ſeiſed of the manor of Elyng, in Hampſted-Norris, in 1409 [f]. In 1424, this manor was in the family of Haute [g], and afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Norris and Bertie: it is now the property of Mr. Robert Hayward, who purchaſed it of Sir George Cornewall bart.

*Hermitage*, *Wild*, and *Little Hungerford*, are in this pariſh.

The great tithes of Hampſted-Norris were appropriated to the priory of Goring in Oxfordſhire; the rectorial eſtate now belongs to the Marchioneſs of Downſhire, who is patroneſs of the vicarage. This pariſh, which lies within the deanery of New-

[u] See Clauſ. 2 Hen. III. [x] Pat. 54 Hen. III. [y] Eſch. Hen. VI. [z] Cart. 4 Edw. I.
[a] Eſch. Hen. VII. [b] Eſch. Edw. III. and Hen. VIII. [c] Eſch. Edw. I. and Hen. IV.
[d] From the information of Sir W. J. James bart. [e] Eſch. Hen. V. &c. [f] Eſch. Hen. IV.
[g] Bundell. Placit. &c. in Turr. Lond. Co. Berks, No. 38.

bury, has been incloſed, under an act of parliament, paſſed in 1771, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriator, and to the vicar, in lieu of tithes.

HANNEY, in the hundred of Wanting, lies about three miles and a half north of Wantage, and about ſeven miles ſouth-weſt of Abingdon. The manor of Weſt-Hanney belonged to the alien priory of Newenton-Longueville in Buckinghamſhire, after the ſuppreſſion of which, it was given by King Henry VI. with other lands which had belonged to that priory, to the warden and ſcholars of New College in Oxford, in whom it is ſtill veſted.

The Eyſtons had a manor in Weſt-Hanney in the reign of King Henry VIII. [h], being the ſame, it is probable, which is now the property of Charles Dewe eſq. and which was purchaſed by his family in the year 1676.

The manor of North-Denchworth in this pariſh, was purchaſed in the reign of King John, of Ralph de Camois, one of the rebellious barons, by Adam Fettiplace, who ſeems to have been the firſt of that ancient family who ſettled in Berkſhire [i]. His poſterity reſided many years at North-Denchworth, and ſpread themſelves into various parts of the county. They continued to poſſeſs this manor, although it had long been deſerted as a reſidence, until the death of Sir George Fettiplace bart. the laſt heir male of the family, who died in 1743, when it paſſed by a female heir to the ſon of Robert Buſhell eſq. of Caſtle-Pryor in Worceſterſhire, who took the name of Fettiplace, and was father of Charles Fettiplace eſq. the preſent proprietor. The manor of Andrews-Court in Weſt-Hanney, belonged to the Fettiplaces in 1443 [k]: although we could not aſcertain the fact, as the ancient name ſeems to have been loſt, yet it is probable that this eſtate ſtill forms a part of Mr. Fettiplace's property in Weſt-Hanney.

The hamlet of *Eaſt-Hanney*, in this pariſh, lies partly within the hundred of Wanting, and partly within that of Ock. In this hamlet were formerly three manors, one of which belonged to the priory of Noion, in Normandy; this manor, by the name of Eaſt-Hanney, *alias* Prior's Hanney, was in the Welleſburn family about the middle of the ſixteenth century [l]. Paul Ambroſe Cooke died ſeiſed of it in 1631 [m]; after his death, it paſſed in marriage with his daughter, to the family of Heath: it is probable that this is the ſame manor, which, during the greater part of the laſt century, was in the Wymondefolds, and is now the property of I. P. Baſtard eſq. M. P. who married the widow of the late Mr. Wymondefold.

John, Baron St. Philibert, who died in 1333, was ſeiſed of a manor in Eaſt-Hanney [n], which from him acquired the name of Philberd's-Court. It belonged

[h] Eſch. 37 Hen. VIII. [i] Berkſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum No. 1535. Harl. MSS.
[k] Eſch. Hen. VI. [l] Eſch. Ph. and Mar. and Eliz. [m] Eſch. Car. I. [n] Eſch. 7 Edw. III.

afterwards

afterwards to Alice Perrers, the favourite of King Edward III. and was given, upon her attainder, to John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon[p], who, being then Duke of Exeter, was himſelf attainted in the year 1400. This manor was granted the ſame year to John Windſor[q]. Its ſubſequent hiſtory we have not been able to aſcertain, or to learn any thing farther of an eſtate, formerly called Bullock's Manor in this hamlet, than that it belonged to the family of Yate in the reign of Queen Elizabeth[r].

An act of parliament for incloſing the hamlet of Eaſt-Hanney, paſſed in 1803, when allotments of land were aſſigned to Sir William Jerningham in lieu of a portion of tithes, and to the other impropriators according to their reſpective intereſts.

*Lyford*, which lies two miles to the north-weſt of Hanney, in the hundred of Ock, is a ſmall hamlet of this pariſh, with a chapel of eaſe. In the fourteenth century, the manor belonged to the Coudrays[s], afterwards to the Pophams[t], and at a later period, to the Ayſhcombes[u]. Oliver Ayſhcombe eſq. was created a baronet in 1696; dying without male iſſue in 1718, the title became extinct. The manor of Lyford was purchaſed, in 1764, of Mr. Robert Greenaway, by the truſtees under Mrs. Sarah Eaton's will, who, in 1775, conveyed it to the provoſt and ſcholars of Worceſter College in Oxford. One of the Ayſhcombe family founded an alms-houſe at Lyford, in 1603, for 10 poor women, eight of whom have an allowance of four ſhillings a-week each, the other two 3s. 6d. only. Robert Belcher founded a free-ſchool at this place in 1702. The hamlet of Lyford has been incloſed by an act of parliament, which paſſed in 1801, when allotments of land were aſſigned in lieu of the rectorial and vicarial tithes. The provoſt and ſcholars of Worceſter College were entitled to a portion of the former; the remainder belonged to the impropriators of Weſt-Hanney.

In the pariſh church at Weſt-Hanney is the tomb of Sir Chriſtopher Lytcott, who twice ſerved the office of ſheriff of the county. He was knighted by King Henry IV. of France, in the camp before Rouen in 1591, and died at Baſilden in 1599. There are ſeveral memorials alſo for the families of Ayſhcombe[x] and Yate of Lyford, and a tablet for Edward Bowles, who died in 1685, aged 89, and Elizabeth his wife, who died in 1718, at the great age of 124. The dean and chapter of Saliſbury are patrons of the vicarage of Weſt-Hanney; the great tithes are held under the procurator and vicars of that cathedral. The Eyſtons were formerly

[p] Pat. 12 Ric. II. [q] Pat. 1 Hen. IV. [r] Eſch. Eliz. [s] Eſch. Edw. III.
[t] Eſch. Hen. IV. and Hen. V. [u] Eſch. Eliz.

[x] The earlieſt date is that of John Ayſhcombe eſq. who died in 1592. John Ayſhcombe, his ſon, ſerved the office of ſheriff of the county, and died in 1635, at the age of 97.

leſſees; the leaſe is now held in moieties by Mrs. Sarah Bowles and the family of Godfrey.

HARWELL, in the hundred of Moreton, lies between ſeven and eight miles from Wallingford, on the road to Wantage, and about ſix miles ſouth of Abingdon. The manor belonged to Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans [y]; his ſon Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, died ſeiſed of it in 1299 [z]. In 1338, King Edward III. granted it to Sir Nicholas De la Beche [a], from whom, it is probable, that it deſcended to the Langfords. In Queen Elizabeth's reign, this manor, by the name of Princes-Harwell, was in the Loder family [b]. It was afterwards in the Raymonds, from whom it paſſed, by marriage, to the Rev. John Craven lately deceaſed: it is now the property of Sir John Chetwode bart.

Another manor in this pariſh, called the Biſhop's Manor, belonged to the ſee of Wincheſter as early as the time of Cardinal Beaufort [c]: Richard Hopkins eſq. is the preſent leſſee under the biſhop.

A tablet in the pariſh church records a ſingular benefaction of Chriſtopher Elderfield, an eminent divine, who was a native of this pariſh, and died in 1652: "he gave lands for the purpoſe of purchaſing, in the ſpring of every year, two milch cows to be given to two of the pooreſt men in the pariſh of Harwell, (burthened with families,) for their ſuſtentation." His benevolent intentions have proved abortive from the impoſſibility of a poor man's procuring paſture for a cow in this pariſh, where the land is chiefly arable. The truſtees of the charity purchaſe two cows or oxen, in the winter, if the rent of the lands will ſuffice, kill them, and diſtribute the meat among the poor. A lady of the name of Jennings, founded an alms-houſe in the year 1715, for ſix poor widows, and endowed it with an allowance of 2s. 6d. weekly to each, and an annual ſum for clothes. Mr. Anthony Loder gave an eſtate, which now produces 32l. *per annum*, for the education of 12 poor children. Mr. Eaton, who died vicar of this place in 1772, gave a houſe to the ſchool-maſter, and a conſiderable benefaction to the poor.

The great tithes of Harwell, which were given by Edward the Black Prince to the College of St. Nicholas in Wallingford Caſtle, belonged, ſome years ago, to the family of Jennings, who ſold them to Sir Jemmet Raymond. They have ſince paſſed with the manor. Sir John Chetwode is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1802. The lands were not exonerated from tithes.

HATFORD, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies about three miles and a half to the ſouth-eaſt of Faringdon. The manor, in the reign of King Henry III. belonged to

[y] Eſch. 56 Hen. III. [z] Eſch. 28 Edw. I. [a] Pat. 12 Edw. III. [b] Eſch. 37 Eliz. [c] Pat. 20 Hen. VI.

Sir Robert de Hatford; at a later period it belonged to Thomas Chaucer, ſon of the poet [d], and was probably part of the inheritance of his wife, who was an heireſs of the family of Burgherſt. Alice, the daughter and heir of Thomas Chaucer, brought it in marriage to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. It became veſted in the crown, by attainder, in the reign of King Henry VIII. and was ſoon afterwards granted in fee-farm to Sir Alexander Unton [e], in whoſe family it continued till the death of Sir Henry Unton, in 1596. Of late years it has undergone various alienations, and is now the property of Mrs. Walker, by inheritance from her brother, the late Joſeph Nutt eſq. In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the Pigott family. On the north ſide of the chancel is a tomb, ſuppoſed to be that of the founder; who is ſaid, by tradition, to have been Sir Robert de Hatford. Mrs. Uvedale, ſiſter of the late incumbent, is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

East-Hendred, in the hundreds of Wanting and Reading, lies about four miles eaſt of Wantage, and ſix miles and a half nearly ſouth of Abingdon. It has been erroneouſly ſuppoſed that Eaſt-Hendred was a great market town, which began to decay after the diſſolution of monaſteries. It is true that it had anciently a market on Tueſdays, long ago diſuſed; but it appears, by an account of the number of inhabitants taken by order of Cardinal Pole in 1555 [f], that there were then only 200, whereas their number, in the year 1801, according to the returns then made to parliament under the Population Act, was 685. The clothing manufacture appears to have been formerly carried on at Eaſt-Hendred [g]: an annual fair is held there on the 11th of October. There are five manors in this pariſh: the King's manor was anciently part of the royal demeſnes, and afterwards belonged to the abbey of Noion, in Normandy [h]. After the ſuppreſſion of alien priories, King Henry VI. gave it to the Carthuſian monaſtery of Sheen, granting the monks very extenſive powers, privileges, and immunities, within the manor; the market above-mentioned, and two fairs at the feſtivals of St. Auguſtin and St. Katherine [i]. This manor has continued in the Crown ever ſince the diſſolution: the ſtewardſhip of it, being a nominal office in the gift of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is one of the places given for the purpoſe of vacating a ſeat in the Houſe of Commons. Within this manor was an ancient chapel, ſuppoſed to have been built by the monks of Sheen, called the chapel of Jeſus of Bethlehem, and afterwards Champ's chapel. It is now converted into two tenements.

[d] See Eſch. 15 Hen. VI. [e] Records in the Augmentation Office. [f] MS. in the Bodleian Library. [g] See Bib. Top. Brit. [h] See Pat. 6 John. [i] Dugdale's Monaſt.

The Abbey manor was given to the abbot and convent of Reading by the Empreſs Maud [k]. After the diſſolution, it was granted by King Henry VIII. to Henry Norris, in whoſe family it continued till 1616 [l]; after an intermediate alienation to Fenton, it was purchaſed, in 1622, of the Earl of Kelly, by Sir Peter Vanlore, who, the ſame year, ſold it to William Eyſton eſq. anceſtor of the preſent proprietor.

The warden and ſcholars of New College in Oxford have a manor in Eaſt-Hendred, which belonged to the priory of Littlemoor, near Oxford. The priory of Frampton, in Dorſetſhire, had a manor in this pariſh, which came into the hands of the crown on the ſuppreſſion of alien monaſteries: John Duke of Bedford died ſeiſed of it in 1436 [m]. It belonged afterwards to the dean and chapter of Windſor, who ſurrendered it to King Henry VIII. In 1539 it was granted to John Winchcombe, whoſe grandſon ſold it in 1602, to John Sherwood eſq. [n] It is now, by inheritance, the property of Sir John Pollen bart.

The manor of Arches appears to have been, from time immemorial, in lay hands. In 1171 it belonged to William Croſsbecy, from whoſe family it paſſed to the Turbevilles, and from the Turbevilles, by a female heir, to the family of Arches, or De Arcubus, about the year 1381. William Eyſton of Iſleworth, in the county of Middleſex, married Iſabel, daughter of John Stow by Maud his wife, daughter and heir of William Rawlin de Arches [o]: it is now the property of Baſil Eyſton eſq. a lineal deſcendant of William Eyſton above-mentioned. In the manor-houſe is an ancient chapel, mentioned in writings as early as the year 1323 [p], and called the chapel of St. Amand and John the Baptiſt. It is neatly fitted up, and uſed by Mr. Eyſton's family, who are of the Roman Catholic religion, for the celebration of divine ſervice. Mr. Eyſton's principal farm is the ſite of the abbey manor, which lies within the hundred of Reading.

In the reign of Edward I. John Paternoſter held a virgate of land in this pariſh, by the ſervice of ſaying a *pater-noſter* every day for the king's ſoul. The land is ſtill called Paternoſter-bank [q]. In the pariſh church are ſeveral memorials of the Eyſtons. The biſhop of Saliſbury is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. That part of the pariſh of Eaſt-Hendred called Weſtmanſide, excepting ſuch lands as lay in Fox mead and Ardington mead, were incloſed by act of parliament in 1801: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

[k] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [l] From the information of Mr. Eyſton. [m] Eſch. 14 Hen. VI. [n] Aſhmole's Berks. vol. III. [o] Ibid. [p] Amicia de Arches, in 1323, grants to William her ſon, all her manors in Eaſt-Hendred, with the advowſon of the chapel there. Aſhmole. The chapel of Eaſt-Hendred is rated in Pope Nicholas's *Valor*. at 3l. 6s. 8d. [q] Aſhmole's Berks.

WEST-HENDRED, or LITTLE-HENDRED, in the hundred of Wanting, lies about three miles eaſt of Wantage, and about ſeven miles ſouth-weſt of Abingdon. A manor in Weſt-Hendred, was anciently in the Liſles, who held it by grand ſerjeanty by the ſervice of buying the king's ale [r]. William Sperſholt purchaſed it of the Liſles in the reign of King Edward I. [s] and his deſcendants for many years poſſeſſed it, together with the manor of Sperſholt, or Sperſholt-court, in this pariſh [t]; which was, at a later period, the ſeat of the Wiſemans. Sir Charles Wiſeman, who was ſheriff of the county in 1612, died ſeiſed of it in 1635 [u]. It continued in his deſcendants till about the year 1720, belonged afterwards to the Clarkes of Ardington, and is now the property of Mr. W. Towſey of Wantage. The houſe, adjoining to which was an old chapel of eaſe, has been pulled down.

Another manor in Weſt-Hendred, with the advowſon of the rectory, was given by Nigel de Albini, to the abbey of St. Albans [x], and afterwards became the property of the prior and convent of Wallingford. In 1536 this manor, with the rectory, were given by King Henry VIII. in exchange for the manor of Eaſt-Moulſey, in Surrey, to the preſident and ſcholars of Corpus Chriſti-College in Oxford [y], who are now impropriators of the great tithes, and patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

The manor of Eaſt-Ginge, in this pariſh, belonged anciently to the Pluknets [z], afterwards to the Benhams and Giffards [a], and is now the property of Mr. May.

NORTH or LAWRENCE-HINKSEY, commonly called FERRY-HINKSEY, in the hundred of Hormer, lies about a mile from Oxford. It was formerly eſteemed a hamlet of Cumner, till Montague, the ſecond Earl of Abingdon, endowed the chapel with vicarial tithes, and made it a ſeparate pariſh. The manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted to Owen and Bridges, and by them conveyed, in 1547, to Sir John Williams and Sir John Greſham knts. At a later period it was for many years in the family of Perrot. It is now the property of Earl Harcourt, having been purchaſed by his father, the late Earl.

In the pariſh church is a memorial for Thomas Willis gent. who loſt his life in the royal cauſe at the ſiege of Oxford, Auguſt 4, 1643. He was father of Dr. Willis, the celebrated phyſician, and anceſtor of Brown Willis the antiquary who reſtored the inſcription, and recorded on the ſame ſtone the death of one of his own

[r] Blount's Tenures. [s] Parliamentary Rolls, vol. I. p. 8. [t] See Eſch. Edw. III.
[u] Eſch. Car. I. where it is called the manor of Sperſholt, alias Southcote. [x] Dugdale's Monaſticon, vol. III. p. 11. [y] Records in the Augmentation Office. [z] Eſch. Edw. I.
[a] Eſch. Edw. III.—Eliz.

ſons.

ſons. On the monument of William Finmore, fellow of St. John's college, who died in 1646, is an epitaph with this quaint beginning: "Reader, look to thy feet, honeſt and loyal men are ſleeping under them. Here lies, &c." very erroneouſly printed in Aſhmole's Berkſhire: there are other memorials of the ſame family. In the church-yard is a croſs, with a tall fluted ſhaft. The pariſh of North-Hinkſey has been incloſed by an act of parliament, which paſſed in 1776; in this act the beneſice is called a vicarage. An allotment of land was aſſigned to the vicar, and an allotment to Earl Harcourt as impropriator of the great tithes. The Earl of Abingdon and Earl Harcourt are alternate patrons of the beneſice.

SOUTH-HINKSEY, in the hundred of Hormer, about two miles ſouth of Oxford, formerly a hamlet of Cumner, was made a ſeparate pariſh at the ſame time, and in the ſame manner, as North-Hinkſey. The manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted to Owen and Bridges, paſſed to the families of Williams, Norris, and Bertie, and is now the property of the Earl of Abingdon. John Piers, archbiſhop of York, was a native of South Hinkſey.

HINTON, in the hundred of Ganſield, lies about ſix miles to the north-eaſt of Faringdon, a little to the north of the road to Abingdon. It was anciently parcel of the barony of St. Walery, from which circumſtance it acquired the name of Hinton-Walerys, which, by length of time, has been corrupted to Waldriſh and Waldridge. Henry de St. Walery, who had been one of the rebellious barons in the reign of King John, had this manor reſtored to him by King Henry III. in 1216[b], and the next year procured a charter for a market at Hinton on Wedneſdays[c], which has been diſuſed from time immemorial. Not long afterwards the family of St. Walery being extinct, the manor of Hinton became ſucceſſively the property of Walter de Langton, Lord Chancellor[d], Hugh le Deſpencer the elder[e], and Thomas Brotherton, Duke of Norfolk. The latter ſurrendered it to the crown in 1332[f], and it was the ſame year given to William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton[g]: on a diviſion of the property of his deſcendant, the Earl of Hereford, in 1421, this manor came to the king. In 1483 it was granted to Henry Duke of Buckingham, as having been formerly of the inheritance of the Bohuns[h]. Hinton is now the property and ſeat of the Rev. John Loder, in whoſe family it has been for ſeveral generations; Mr. Loder is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1760, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes. *Duxford* is a hamlet of Hinton.

[b] Cl. 1 Hen. III. Cl. 6 Edw. III. [c] Cl. 2 Hen. III. [f] Pat. 6 Edw. III. [d] Cart. 35 Edw. I. [g] Dugdale. [e] Cart. 11 Edw. II.

HUNGERFORD,

HUNGERFORD, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, is a market-town, on the banks of the Kennet, and on the road to Bath, 64 miles from London. A conſiderable part of the pariſh, which is divided into four tithings, is in the county of Wilts. The tithing of Charnam-Street is wholly in that county; that of Sandon-fee is partly in Wiltſhire, and partly in Berkſhire. The tithings of Hungerford, and Eddington, with Newtown, are wholly in Berkſhire. The probability of Eddington being the *Ethandune* of the Saxon Chronicle, has been already ſhewn[i]. It is probable alſo, that it was the *Ethandune*, left by Alfred, with other eſtates in this county, to his wife Ealhſwitha. The market at Hungerford, which is on Wedneſdays, has been held from time immemorial. It is mentioned as an eſtabliſhed market, in a record of the year 1297[k]. There are three fairs; the laſt Wedneſday in April, the laſt Wedneſday in September, and the firſt Wedneſday in October. The town is governed by a conſtable, who is choſen annually. The number of inhabitants, according to the return made to parliament in 1801, was 1987. The town of Hungerford does not appear in the Survey of Domeſday, unleſs it be by the name of *Ingleſol*. Camden ſays, the old name of Hungerford was Ingleford-Charnam-Street. Perhaps the name of Ingleford applied only to the ſite of the manor of Hungerford-Ingleford, in this pariſh. The name of Hungerford occurs, as now ſpelt, in a record of the year 1204[l]. The Earl of Eſſex, quartered his army at Hungerford, before the firſt battle of Newbury, in 1643[m]. The king was at this town ſoon after the ſecond battle of Newbury, in 1644[n].

The manor of Hungerford was the property of Robert Fitz-parnell, Earl of Leiceſter, and afterwards of Sayer de Quincy, Earl of Wincheſter, who married one of his daughters and co-heirs[o]. In 1297, King Edward I. granted it to Edmund, Earl of Lancaſter[p], from whom it deſcended to John of Gaunt, who granted the inhabitants a fiſhery of conſiderable extent in the Kennet. His ſon Henry, before his acceſſion to the throne, being then Duke of Lancaſter, granted the manor, together with the town and Hungerford park, to Sir Walter Hungerford, who died ſeiſed of it in 1448[q]. During the wars between the houſes of York and Lancaſter, this manor was ſeized by the Yorkiſts, and became the property of Richard, Duke of Glouceſter; who, when he came to the crown, gave it to John, Duke of Norfolk, who fell at Boſworth-field. Being again in the crown, it was given by King Edward VI. with the park, market, fairs, &c. to the Duke of Somerſet[r]; after whoſe attainder it was granted, with all the above ap-

[i] Vide p. 162. [k] Pat. 25 Edw. I. [l] Pat. 6 John. [m] Heath's Chronicle.
[n] Clarendon. [o] See Pat. 6 John, and Dugdale's Baronage. [p] Pat. 25 Edw. I.
[q] Eſch. 27 Hen. VI. [r] Pat. 2 Edw. VI.

purtenances,

purtenances, (the park excepted,) to the townſmen of Hungerford; the conſtable, who is choſen annually, being, by virtue of his office, lord of the manor. In a large cheſt, with three locks, is preſerved an ancient bugle horn, ſaid to have been given by John of Gaunt, when he granted the above-mentioned right of fiſhery. It is of braſs, about 18 inches in length: on one ſide is the following mutilated termination of an inſcription in black letter:—*actel;* on the other ſide, the word *Hungerford.* In the town-hall is another horn of braſs, of more modern date, of the ſame ſize and ſhape, which is blown annually on the ſecond Tueſday after Eaſter, at the Hocktide court, to call the tenants of the manor together. It has the following inſcription, in the common Roman letter, with the date 1634, and the name of Jehoſophat Lucas, as conſtable: "John a Gaun did give and grant the riall fiſhing to Hungerford towne, from Eldren Stub to Iriſh Stil, excepting ſom ſeveral mil pound."

Hungerford park, having been reſerved by the crown as above-mentioned, was granted with all manerial rights within its limits, in 1595, to the truſtees of Robert, Earl of Eſſex[1]. In the following century it belonged to the family of Boyland. In 1707 it came to the Stonhouſes, who were alſo proprietors of Standen-Huſſey, in this pariſh: they ſold it in 1765 to Mr. Renou, and it was afterwards ſucceſſively in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Waters and Charles Dalbiac eſq. The preſent proprietor, John Willes eſq. purchaſed it of Mr. Dalbiac in 1796. There was no houſe in Hungerford park when granted to the Earl of Eſſex; but it is not improbable that he was the builder of an ancient manſion, pulled down by Mr. Dalbiac, at the eaſt end of which were the arms of Queen Elizabeth: a large and lofty room over the ſervants-hall, was called Queen Elizabeth's room. Mr. Dalbiac built a modern houſe on the ſite, leaving the old offices, which have been ſince pulled down and rebuilt by Mr. Willes.

The ancient family of Hungerford derived their name and origin from this town, where it is probable that they had their reſidence, and poſſeſſed property at a very early period. Sir Robert de Hungerford, the firſt perſon of note of this family, mentioned by Dugdale, who died about the year 1354, was buried in Hungerford church, where is an inſcription to his memory[2] in French, promiſing 550 days pardon, on the word of fourteen biſhops, to all ſuch as ſhould pray for his ſoul. Sir Thomas Hungerford, nephew of this Robert, was the firſt ſpeaker of the Houſe of Commons; his ſon, Walter, was Lord High Treaſurer to King Henry VI. and received ſummons to parliament as a baron. The elder branch of the family became extinct in Thomas Lord Hungerford, whoſe daughter carried the baronies of Hungerford, Bottreaux, Moels, and Molins, into the noble family of Haſtings. Walter

[1] From the information of Mr. Willes.

[2] Printed by Dugdale and Aſhmole.

Hungerford, deſcended from a younger ſon of Robert Lord Hungerford, who was beheaded at Newcaſtle in 1463, was created Baron Hungerford, of Heyteſbury, by King Henry VIII. in 1536. The title became extinct by his attainder in 1540; but his eſtates were afterwards reſtored to the family, who had ſeats at Farley Caſtle in Somerſetſhire, Black-Bourton in Oxfordſhire, Down-Amney, and Winruſh, in Glouceſterſhire, Cadenham in Wilts, &c. Some of the family remained at Hungerford. Henry Hungerford eſq. who died in 1673, was of Standen. John Hungerford eſq. who died in 1729, was poſſeſſed of a manor in this pariſh, called the manor of Hungerford-Ingleford, which, it is probable, his anceſtors had enjoyed at a very early period; for although the lands of this family had been more than once forfeited in turbulent times, yet the greater part of them were, in each inſtance, reſtored after the lapſe of a few years. This John Hungerford, who died without iſſue, was deſcended from the Hungerfords of Down-Amney. He was a frequent ſpeaker in parliament, where he repreſented the borough of Scarborough, and was ſtanding counſel for the Eaſt India Company. He directed by his will, that his eſtates ſhould be ſold, and bequeathed two thirds of his reſiduary property to the provoſt and ſcholars of King's College, in Cambridge. The Hungerfords of Farley became extinct in the direct line in the perſon of Sir Edward Hungerford, who having ſold the Farley eſtate, died in 1711, at the great age of 115, his ſon and grand-ſon dying before him without iſſue. John Peach Hungerford eſq. now of Dingley-hall in Northamptonſhire, near Market-Harborough, ſome time one of the repreſentatives in parliament for the county of Leiceſter, is lineally deſcended from the Hungerfords of Down-Amney. This gentleman retains poſſeſſion of the family vaults in Farley Caſtle and Saliſbury Cathedral.

The manor of Standen Huſſey, in the Wiltſhire part of this pariſh, was formerly in the family of Huſe or Huſſie[s]. At a later period it belonged to Sir Reginald Bray, prime miniſter to King Henry VII. and was bequeathed by him to William Lord Sandys, who married the only child of his brother John. In 1583, it was purchaſed of his deſcendant of the ſame name, by Thomas Goddard eſq. In 1719 the Goddard family ſold it to Francis Stonehouſe eſq. whoſe repreſentative, Mrs. Pearſe, is the preſent proprietor. The free chapel of South-Standen, within this manor, has long ago been deſecrated, and converted into a pigeon-houſe. Standen-Huſſey houſe is the property and reſidence of Thomas Michel eſq. who married one of Mrs. Pearſe's daughters.

The manor of North-Standen has been long annexed to the Littlecot eſtate, and is now the property of Brigadier-General Leyborne. There are no remains of the chapel at North-Standen.

[s] Eſch. Hen. III. Edw. III.

The manors of Hudden or Hidden, and of Eddington in this parish, were given to the priory of St. Frideswide in Oxford, by Edmund, Earl of Lancaster[t]: after the reformation, they were granted, together with that of Newtown, to the family of James, who forfeited them in the reign of Queen Mary for their attachment to the protestant religion[u]. They were re-granted by Queen Elizabeth, and are now the property of Sir Walter James James bart. His elder brother, who died without issue, took the name of James on succeeding to these and other estates of the late John James esq. the last heir male of that family.

In the parish church are several memorials for the family of Hungerford, and for the Stonehouses of Standen. The inscriptions in memory of Sir Edward Hungerford, K. B. 1629, and his wife Margaret, printed in Ashmole's Collections, have been removed. In the porch is the figure of an armed knight, which, it is probable, belonged to the tomb of Sir Robert Hungerford. There were two chantries in Hungerford church, one of which was founded by this Sir Robert[x]. The chantry-roll in the Augmentation Office, mentions the chapel of St. John the Baptist at Hungerford, and the chapels of North and South-Standen. It is probable, that the chapel of St. John the Baptist belonged to an hospital of that name, which existed at Hungerford, as early as the year 1281. It was endowed with lands, and the oblations on the feast of St. John the Baptist. The prior or warden was to celebrate divine service thrice in a week, and to relieve the poor inhabitants in times of scarcity. The Duke of Lancaster was patron[y]. No information can be obtained concerning the site of this hospital. The great tithes of this parish, which are supposed to have been parcel of the estates of the priory of Okeburn[z], are now appropriated to the dean and chapter of Windsor, who are patrons of the vicarage. Hungerford lies within the deanery of Newbury, but is in the peculiar jurisdiction of the dean of Salisbury.

Dr. Samuel Chandler, a very eminent writer among the protestant dissenters, was born at Hungerford in 1693[a].

John Hamblen gave 4l. *per annum* to this parish, to endow a charity-school. Dr. Edward Sheaffe, vicar of the parish, gave the school-house in 1636. About 12l. *per annum* is appropriated to the benefit of that school, out of a benefaction given by Mrs. Elizabeth Cummins, to the poor of this parish, and that of Breedon in Leicestershire. The number of boys to be educated in the school, is at the discretion of the minister and church-wardens.

[t] See Pat. 6 Edw. III. [u] From the information of Sir W. J. James. [x] Dugdale's Baronage. [y] Tanner's Notit. Monast. new Edition. [z] See the Taxation of Pope Nicholas. John, Duke of Bedford, who possessed, by grant, the priory of Okeburn, had the rectory of Hungerford. See Esch. 14 Hen. VI. [a] Biograph. Brit.

HURLEY,

HURLEY, in the hundred of Barnerſh, and deanery of Reading, lies five miles from Maidenhead, and four from Henley on Thames, near the Oxford-road. Geoffrey de Magnaville, anceſtor of the Magnavilles or Mandevilles, Earls of Eſſex, founded a Benedictine monaſtery at this place in the reign of William the Conqueror, and endowed it with the manor of Hurley and other lands [b]. It was afterwards made a cell to Weſtminſter abbey. In 1535, its revenues were valued at 121l. 8s. 5d. *per annum*. The ſite, called Lady-place (the convent having been dedicated to the Virgin Mary), was granted, in 1545, to Leonard Chamberlayne [c], and, not long afterwards, came, together with the manor of Hurley, into the poſſeſſion of John Lovelace eſq. who died in 1558 [d]. His grandſon, Sir Richard Lovelace, "knighted in the wars," as his epitaph expreſſes it, went on an expedition with Sir Francis Drake; and it is ſaid, he built the preſent manſion with the money he gained in that adventure. Richard Lovelace, his ſon, was created Baron Lovelace of Hurley, in 1627. The title became extinct at the death of Neville Lord Lovelace, in 1736. John, Lord Lovelace, is ſaid to have been very inſtrumental in bringing about the Revolution. He was captain of the band of gentlemen penſioners to King William. His great prodigality and ſplendid ſtyle of living involved him in ſuch difficulties, that he was obliged to ſell a great part of his eſtates, under a decree of chancery, to pay his debts. Hurley is ſaid to have been purchaſed by an attorney, on behalf of himſelf and his clients [e]. The manor was purchaſed for the family of Greeve; was afterwards the Duke of Marlborough's [f], and is now the property of Lord Viſcount Aſhbrook, in right of his lady, who was heireſs of the late Thomas Walker eſq. of Woodſtock. Lady-Place, with ſome lands in Hurley, were bought by Mrs. Williams, ſiſter of Dr. Wilcocks, biſhop of Rocheſter, who had the ſingular good fortune (though ſhe poſſeſſed only two tickets) of gaining, a prize of 500l. and another of 20,000l. in the ſame lottery. The daughter and heir of Mrs. Williams married Dr. Lewin, chancellor of Rocheſter, who, in her right, poſſeſſed this eſtate. After Mrs. Lewin's death, it paſſed to the late Joſeph Wilcocks eſq. for life; and, after his deceaſe, to the preſent proprietor, Guſtavus Adolphus Kempenfelt eſq. [g].

Lady-Place, the ſeat of Mr. Kempenfelt, was built about the year 1600, by Sir Richard Lovelace; it was fitted up with great ſplendour by John, Lord Lovelace, in the reign of King William. The hall and ſtair-caſe are very magnificent. On the principal ſtory is a large ſaloon, the ceiling of which is enriched with

[b] Dugdale. [c] Tanner. [d] The inſcription on his tomb is printed in Aſhmole's Berkſhire. It is not now to be ſeen at Hurley. [e] Magna Britan. [f] Gough's Additions to Camden.
[g] From the information of Mr. Kempenfelt.

paintings of figures; the pannels are ornamented with landſcapes [h]. In the parlour is a portrait of the unfortunate Admiral Kempenfelt (brother of the preſent owner of Lady-Place), who was loſt in the Royal George. Under the hall is a vault, in which, according to tradition, ſecret meetings were held for promoting the revolution, in 1688; and it is further ſaid, that King William viſiting Lord Lovelace at Hurley, after his eſtabliſhment on the throne, was taken by his hoſt to ſee this vault. Theſe traditionary anecdotes are related on a tablet, placed at the end of the vault by the late Mr. Wilcocks. He has recorded alſo a viſit of General Paoli to this vault, in 1780, and of his preſent Majeſty, in 1785.

The ſtables belonging to Mr. Kempenfelt's manſion were the refectory of the convent, the windows of which are ſtill remaining. The chapel of the convent, now the pariſh church, ſtands on the oppoſite ſide of a quadrangle. It was dedicated by Oſmund, biſhop of London, in the year 1086. The round arches at the weſt end, with zig-zag ornaments, are, it is moſt probable, part of the original ſtructure. In the church is a braſs plate, in memory of John Doyley eſq. with the date 1492, in Arabic numerals, and ſome monuments of the Lovelace family.

The great tithes, which were appropriated to the convent, are now the property of Lord Aſhbrook, who is patron of the vicarage.

Sir Richard Lovelace, who died in 1639, gave an augmentation of 6l. 13s. 4d. *per annum* to the vicarage, on condition, that the vicar ſhould reſide on his benefice, preach there every other Sunday at the leaſt, and pray for his heirs, whoever they ſhould be. He directed alſo, that 10 quarters of clean well-winnowed rye ſhould be given annually, in equal proportions, to ten poor perſons, natives of Hurley, being either aged or burdened with large families.

Hall-Place in this pariſh, the ſeat of Sir William Eaſt bart. belonged, in the 17th century, to the family of Alford. Henry Alford eſq. died in 1645, at his manor-houſe of Hall-Place [i]. Sir William Eaſt was created a baronet in 1766; his father purchaſed Hall-Place about the year 1730.

HURST, in the hundred of Sunning, lies about ſix miles eaſt of Reading, and about four miles nearly north of Wokingham. This pariſh conſiſts of four liberties,

[h] It has often been aſſerted that theſe landſcapes were from the pencil of Salvator Roſa, and that the pannels were ſent over to Italy to be painted by him. They are about 50 in number, coarſely painted in a free ſtyle, and the lights heightened with gold; but do not bear the leaſt reſemblance to the works of the great maſter to whom they have been aſcribed; nor does the execution of them ſeem ſuperior to that of numberleſs landſcapes, to be ſeen painted on pannels, in houſes fitted up about the ſame time; and beſides, not only the pannels round this room, but alſo the ſoffits of the large bay windows which are of ſtucco, are decorated in a ſimilar manner, and evidently by the ſame hand.

[i] Langley's Hiſtory of the hundred of Deſborough, p. 198.

Whiſtley,

Whiſtley, Winnerſh, Newland, and Hinton, or Broad-Hinton. The laſt-mentioned diſtrict of the pariſh is in an inſulated part of Wiltſhire. The church is in Berkſhire. Each liberty has its own overſeers, and other officers.

The manor of Hurſt, including the liberties of Whiſtley and Hinton, belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, having been given to that monaſtery by King Edgar[k]. In 1539, it was granted to Richard Ward, and Anne his wife, from whoſe deſcendants it paſſed, by marriage, to the Harriſons. The late Mr. Dalby, whoſe family were the next poſſeſſors, ſold it, about the year 1785, to Richard Aldworth Neville eſq. now Lord Braybrooke. Hurſt-Houſe, formerly the reſidence of the lords of the manor, was built by Sir Edward Ward, cofferer to Queen Elizabeth[l], and was afterwards the ſeat of Sir Richard Harriſon, whoſe monument is in the pariſh church. It has been alienated from the manor, and is now the property and reſidence of Mrs. Wowen.

The manor of Syndleſham, or Sinſham, near Loddon bridge, which was anciently in the Weſtwolds[m], has been of late years in the Spencer family, and was not long ago purchaſed of Earl Spencer by Edward Golding eſq. of Maiden-Earley, M. P.

The liberties of Winnerſh and Newland are within the manor of Sunning, which was purchaſed, in 1795, of Sir Thomas Rich bart. by the preſent proprietor, Richard Palmer eſq. of Holme-Park, in the pariſh of Sunning.

Haines-Hill, in this pariſh, was the ſeat of Sir Thomas Windebank, clerk of the ſignet, and the birth-place of his ſon, Sir Francis Windebank, ſecretary of ſtate to King Charles I.[n] It was the property and reſidence of the late Mrs. Colleton[o], relict of John Edward Colleton eſq. Henry Fairfax eſq. grandſon of Thomas Viſcount Fairfax, had a ſeat on the Wiltſhire ſide of the pariſh, inherited from the Barkers. It is now the property of Mr. Palmer, and in the occupation of Colonel Knox. Bill-Hill, in this pariſh, has been many years in the family of Gower[p]. It was lately occupied by the Marquis of Blandford, and is now the reſidence of the proprietor, Col. Leveſon Gower.

In the pariſh church are ſome handſome monuments, particularly thoſe of Margaret Lady Savile, wife of the learned and munificent Sir Henry Savile, warden of Merton College, in Oxford, and founder of the Savilian Profeſſorſhips in that Univerſity, who died in 1631, and that of Sir Richard Harriſon, who twice raiſed a troop of horſe at his own charge, for the ſervice of King Charles I. and died in

[k] Placit. &c. de terris in Turr. Lond. Com. Berks. No. 31. [l] From the information of Mr. Crofts, the miniſter of Hurſt. [m] Eſch. Rich. II. [n] Ant. Wood. [o] She died ſince the liſt of ſeats in p. 185, was printed. [p] It belonged to John Lord Gower, afterwards Marquis of Stafford, in 1746. Simpſon's Engliſh Traveller.

1683. The figures of Sir Richard Harriſon and his lady are executed with much ſpirit, in white marble, by Stanton. Sir Richard is repreſented in armour, kneeling on one knee: his lady reclines, with one arm, on a ſtool, and in the other holds a broken cord. In the ſouth aiſle of the chancel is a handſome monument, with the effigies of the deceaſed in robes, to the memory of Henry Barker eſq. who died in 1651. There are ſeveral other monuments for the families of Ward (grantees of the manor), Harriſon, Barker, Fairfax, Hyde, and Palmer.

Hurſt is ſituated within the deanery of Reading, but is ſubject to the juriſdiction of the dean of Saliſbury, who is patron of the perpetual curacy, and has the impropriation both of great and ſmall tithes, which are held for a leaſe on lives, by Richard Palmer eſq. of Sunning, whoſe family have been in poſſeſſion of the leaſe for ſeveral years.

William Barker eſq. who died in 1685, founded an hoſpital in this pariſh, for eight poor perſons, to whom he gave a weekly allowance of 3s. 6d. each, and a gown every other year.

*Twyford*, within the limits of the liberties of Whiſtley and Hinton, is an hamlet of Hurſt, ſituated on the great road from London to Bath, where a ſkirmiſh was fought between ſome of King James IId's ſoldiers, and a party of the Prince of Orange's, in 1688[q]. It lies about two miles and a half from Hurſt Church; about a third of the houſes are in Wiltſhire; the reſt in Berkſhire. The Norris family had an eſtate here, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, called the manor of Twyford[r], ſubordinate perhaps to that of Hurſt; it has not been traced to a later period: Lord Braybrooke's is the only manor now known. Mr. Edward Polehampton, who died in 1721, built a chapel of eaſe at Twyford, and founded a charity-ſchool, for the education of ten boys, with a dwelling-houſe for the maſter. He made the vicars of St. Sepulchre's, in London, and St. Mary's, in Reading, and the miniſter of Hurſt, perpetual truſtees, and directed that 10l. *per annum* ſhould be allowed for clothing: 40l. *per annum*, and the houſe, for his reſidence, with the liberty to take boarders, to the miniſter, provided he would undertake the care of the ſchool; but, in caſe of his refuſal, 10l. *per annum* to be deducted from his ſalary, and given to a ſchoolmaſter, who ſhould have the uſe of the houſe. Lady Frances Winchcombe founded an hoſpital at Twyford, in 1640, for ſix poor perſons, who have an allowance of 1s. 6d. a-week each, and a coat, or gown, once in two years.

There are two annual fairs at Twyford, July 26, and October 11.

[q] Magna Britannia. [r] Eſch. Eliz.

EAST-

EAST-ILSLEY or MARKET-ILSLEY, anciently HULDESLEY, or HILDESLEY, in the hundred of Compton, is a ſmall market town, about nine miles from Newbury, on the road to Oxford, and 53 miles diſtant from London. The market is on Wedneſdays. There are two fairs, March 26th and Auguſt 26: the laſt is a large ſheep fair. The ſheep-downs in the neighbourhood are very extenſive. The manor was anciently in the baronial family of Somery, and held under them by the De la Poyles [t]. Urias Babington died ſeiſed of it in 1605 [u]. Soon afterwards it came to the Moores [x], who were of this place and Fawley. Sir Francis Moore, the lawyer, father of the firſt baronet of that family, was born at Eaſt-Ilſley. The manor was deviſed, in 1803, by the late John Head eſq. in whoſe family it had been for a conſiderable time, to Robert Southby eſq. of Appleton. Mr. Head bequeathed the manor of Aſhridge, in this pariſh, to Mr. John Waſey, of Newbury, ſince deceaſed. In the church is a ſingle memorial, with the date 1606, of the ancient family of Hildeſley, or Hilſey, who took their name from this town, and are now extinct. They are ſaid to have been ſome time proprietors of a manor, in one of the Ilſleys. Biſhop Hilſey, who ſucceeded Dr. Fiſher in the ſee of Rocheſter, was of this family [y]. Brackley Kennet eſq. late alderman of London, was patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury: the patronage is ſtill in the Kennet family. Richard Wightwick, joint founder of Pembroke College, in Oxford, was rector of Eaſt-Ilſley [z].

At Kates-Gore, in this pariſh, were large ſtables, built by William Duke of Cumberland, for his running horſes [a].

WEST-ILSLEY, in the hundred of Compton, lies about a mile and a half to the north-weſt of Eaſt or Market-Ilſley. In the 14th century the manor was in the family of Penley [b]: at a later period, in the Ramſeys: it is now the property of William Baker eſq.

The manor of Hodcot, the ſeat and property of John Head eſq. lately deceaſed, was purchaſed by his grand-father in 1662, of Mr. Southby, of Abingdon; it had been before in the families of Keate [b] and Stamp [c], and at a more remote period in the Somerys [d]. It is now, by the bequeſt of Mr. Head, the property of his couſin, Robert Southby eſq. of Appleton.

In the pariſh church are ſeveral memorials of the Heads of Hodcot. The dean and chapter of Windſor are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury. The learned Mark Antonio de Dominis, archbiſhop of Spalatro, was

[t] Eſch. Edw. I. and Edw. II. [u] Eſch. Jac. I. [x] Eſch. Car. I. [y] Ant. Wood.
[z] Magna Britannia. [a] Rocque's Map. [b] Eſch. Edw. III. [c] See an epitaph in Hagbourn church.
[d] Eſch. Eliz. [e] Eſch. Edw. I. and Edw. II.

preſented to this rectory by King James I[e]. Calybute Downing, a celebrated divine, in the reign of King Charles I. and King Charles II. was ſome time rector of this pariſh, which he quitted on being inſtituted to the vicarage of Hackney, in Middleſex[f].

There are two extenſive breweries in this village, the beer of which has acquired conſiderable celebrity.

INKPEN, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies nearly four miles to the ſouth-eaſt of Hungerford. The manor was held, at an early period, under the baronial family of Somery, by the Inkpens, who took their name from the village[g]. It was afterwards in the families of Fitchet[h] and Keryell[i], and is now the property of the Earl of Craven, whoſe anceſtors became poſſeſſed of it nearly two centuries ago.

The manor of Weſt-cote, or Weſt-court, in this pariſh, was formerly in the family of Hill[k]. For many years it was held jointly by the noble families of Spencer and Craven. Lord Spencer's ſhare was, not long ago, ſold to Mr. Durnford, of Inkpen, who has ſince diſpoſed of moſt of the lands which were included in his purchaſe.

The abbot and convent of Titchfield had a conſiderable eſtate in this pariſh, given them by Geffry le Manſell and Peter Suckemond[l].

In the pariſh church is the monument of a cruſader, and a cenotaph in memory of Captain Thomas Butler, who was loſt on board the Scarborough, in the dreadful hurricane in the Weſt Indies, in 1780. He was going to take poſſeſſion of the Diamond frigate, of which he had been appointed Captain by Sir Peter Parker. The patronage of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury, has been many years in the family of the preſent incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Butler, brother to Capt. Butler, above mentioned. An annual payment was ſettled on the rector, in lieu of tithes, by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1747.

KENTBURY, anciently CHENETBERIE and KENNETBURY, about three miles ſouth-eaſt of Hungerford, derives its name from the river Kennet, on the banks of which it is ſituated. It had formerly a market on Fridays, and two fairs; one on the feſtival of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, and the other on that of St. Simon and Jude, granted in the year 1268, to the nuns of Shaftſbury[m]; but it does not appear on record, that they ever poſſeſſed any property in this pariſh. This village gives name to the hundred in which it is ſituated.

[e] Granger's Biographical Hiſtory. [f] Ant. Wood. [g] Eſch. Edw. I. and II.
[h] Eſch. Rich. II. [i] Eſch. Edw. IV. [k] Eſch. Hen. V. [l] Dugdale's Monaſticon.
[m] Cart. 52 Hen. III.

The manor of Kentbury-Ambreſbury belonged to the nuns of Ambreſbury, having been given to them, at the firſt foundation of their monaſtery, by Queen Elfrida[n]. In 1542, it was granted to John Cheyne: not long afterwards it came to the Darrells, from whom it paſſed, in marriage, about the year 1670, with the daughter and heir of Sir John Darrell, to Sir John Elwes, who ſold it to Philip Jemmet eſq. alderman of London. Alderman Jemmet's daughter brought it in marriage to Sir Jonathan Raymond. It is now, in right of his wife, the property of Charles Dundas eſq. one of the knights of the ſhire, who reſides on this eſtate, at his ſeat called Barton-Court. Mrs. Dundas's grand-father, Thomas Whitley eſq. of Aſton-Hall, in Flintſhire, married Anne, daughter of Thomas Loder eſq. of Balſdon Park, in this pariſh, by his wife Elizabeth, eldeſt daughter of Sir Jonathan Raymond above mentioned. The hamlets of *Clapton* and *Elcot* are within this manor.

The manor of Kentbury-Holt was given to the nuns of Eaton, in Warwickſhire, by their founder, Robert Boſſu, Earl of Leiceſter[o]. It is now the property of Lord Craven, in whoſe family it has been nearly two centuries.

The manor of Balleſdon, Balſdon, or Balſton, in this pariſh, was anciently in the family of Polhampton[p]; at a later period, in the Darrells[q]. The Loders were of Balſdon Park, in 1667[r]. It is now the property of John Mackaneſs eſq. by a late purchaſe from Cuthbert Johnſon eſq. to whoſe wife it was, a few years ago, bequeathed by —— Dixon eſq.

The manor houſe, which is ſurrounded by a moat, is now occupied as a farm. Mr. Mackaneſs purchaſed alſo, at the ſame time, the manors of Tidcomb and Wallingtons, which had been bequeathed alſo, by Mr. Dixon, to Mrs. Johnſon. The manor of Tidcomb had, in ancient times, been ſucceſſively in the families of Hertrugge[s], Burton[t], Romaine[u], and Long[x]. The capital manſion on this eſtate, called Wallingtons, is occupied by A. F. Nugnes eſq. The manor of Anville, in this pariſh, is the property of Sir Francis Burdett bart. who inherited it from the family of Jones, of Ramſbury. It is probable, that it has paſſed with the adjoining manor of Avington, which belongs alſo to Sir Francis Burdett.

The manors of High and Low Denford, in this pariſh, were formerly the property of the Longeſpees, earls of Saliſbury[y], and afterwards of the Lords Lovell and Holland[z]. They came to the crown by the attainder of Francis Lord Lovell, in

[n] See the Domeſday Survey. [o] Dugdale. [p] Eſch. Edw. I. and Edw. III. [q] See Eſch. Edw. IV.—Eſch. Hen. VIII. &c. [r] Berkſhire Pedigrees. [s] Eſch. Edw. I. and Edw. II. [t] Eſch. Rich. II. [u] Eſch. Hen. V. and Hen. VI. [x] Eſch. Rich. III. [y] See Eſch. 6 Edw. III. [z] Eſch. Hen. IV.—Edw. IV.

1487, and were granted by King Henry VIII. to the anceſtors of the late John James eſq. from whom they devolved to the preſent proprietor, Sir Walter James James bart. whoſe elder brother took the name of James, by act of parliament, on ſucceeding to this and other eſtates of the late Mr. James.

In the pariſh church are the monuments of Sir William Darrell, of Littlecote, who died in 1588, and his nephew, Sir John Darrell bart. of Weſt-Woodhay, who died in 1625, and ſeveral of the families of Jemmet, Raymond, and Shaw. That of Sir Jemmet Raymond, who died at the age of 93, was executed by Scheemaker, and has buſts of the deceaſed and his ſon.

The great tithes of this pariſh, which were appropriated to the monaſtery of Ambreſbury, are now the property of Mr. Dundas, who is patron of the vicarage. Kentbury is in the deanery of Newbury.

The tithing of Elcot, in this pariſh, was incloſed by act of parliament in 1779: the lands were not exonerated from tithes. Beſides the above-mentioned hamlets, to which manors are annexed, Clapton, Englewood, and Wormſtall, are in this pariſh.

KINGSTON-BAGPUIS, or BAGPUZE, in the hundred of Ock, lies on the road from London to Cirenceſter, ſix miles from Abingdon, and eight from Faringdon. The manor was, at an early period, in the baronial family of Somery[a]. A part of this eſtate ſeems to have been ſubdivided, and to have formed two diſtinct manors, which, from the families by whom they were afterwards poſſeſſed[b], acquired the names of Kingſton-Ferrars and Kingſton-Longueville. A third manor, retaining the name of Kingſton-Bagpuze, was ſeveral years in the family of Kingſton[c]. John Latton, whoſe family ſettled at Upton, in the pariſh of Blewbury, about the year 1325, removed to Chilton, in the reign of Henry VII. and having afterwards, in the year 1542, purchaſed the manors of Kingſton-Bagpuze, Kingſton-Ferrars, and Kingſton-Longueville, ſettled in this pariſh[d], where his deſcendants continued to reſide till about the year 1670, when they ſold their eſtates at Kingſton, and removed to Eſher, in Surrey[e]. The manors became afterwards the property of the Fettiplaces, from whom they paſſed, by marriage, to the Blandys. They are now, under the will of the late Mr. Blandy, veſted in the truſtees of Mr. Adam Blandy, (late Walker,) a minor. The editor of Aſhmole's Collections deſcribes ſeveral coats of arms and quarterings of the Lattons, which were in the hall of the manor-houſe. It is probable, that theſe are the ſame which are now in a room, called the Star-

[a] Eſch. Edw. I. and Edw. II. [b] See Dugdale's Baronage, under the family of Ferrars, and Eſch. Hen. VI. [c] Eſch. Edw. IV.—Hen. VIII. [d] Aſhmole's Berkſhire, vol. III. [e] Ibid.

Chamber, at Strawberry-Hill. Lord Orford's catalogue ſays, that they belonged to the Lattons, of Eſher, whom he ſpeaks of as extinct. The preſent manor-houſe is a modern brick manſion. The pariſh church has been lately re-built: it is a ſmall neat ſtructure. A few monuments of the Fettiplaces and Blandys, which were in the old church, have been carefully preſerved.

The preſident and ſcholars of St. John's College are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

In this pariſh is New Bridge, over the Thames, where two annual fairs are held, March 31 and September 28. At this bridge the parliamentary army were repulſed, on their attempt to paſs it, the 27th of May, 1644[f]. On the 2d of June following, Waller paſſed this bridge with his army, without oppoſition[g].

LAMBOURN is an ancient market town, ſeven miles from Hungerford, and 46 from London. The market has exiſted from a very remote period: it is called Cheping-Lambourn, in a charter of 1227, when a fair, at the feſtival of St. Matthew, was granted to the Fitzwarrens[h]. The charter for a market was renewed in the reign of Henry VI. and two fairs granted at the feſtivals of St. Philip and James, and St. Clement, to the dean and chapter of St. Paul's[i]. The market, which is held on Fridays, has, of late years, much declined. There are now three fairs; the 12th of May, the 4th of October, and 4th of December. In the market-place is a croſs, conſiſting of a tall plain ſhaft, with an ornamented capital, on an aſcent of ſteps.

The pariſh of Lambourn is very extenſive, compriſing the whole of the hundred to which it gives name. The number of inhabitants in the town, and its hamlets, according to the returns made to parliament in 1801, was 2045. No hiſtorical event occurs relating to Lambourn, except that King Charles was there with his army, ſoon after the ſecond battle of Newbury, in 1644[k].

The manor of Lambourn was given by King Alfred to his wife Ealhſwith[l], daughter of Ethelred, Earl of Mercia, who ſurvived him four years, and died in 904. In the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, and at the time of taking the Norman Survey, it was part of the royal demeſnes. In 1361, Sir Thomas Grandiſon, in whoſe family it had been for ſome time, conveyed the manor of Cheping-Lambourn to Sir John Pecche[m]. Not long afterwards it came to the crown. This manor, and the manor of Upper-Lambourn, which had been given by King Henry III. to

[f] Walker's Diſcourſes, p. 16. [g] Ibid. [h] Cart. 11 Hen. III. [i] Cart. 21 and 24 Hen. VI. [k] Clarendon. [l] Alfred's Will, printed at Oxford in 1788, from the MS. in the poſſeſſion of the late Thomas Aſtle eſq. [m] Cl. 43 Edw. III.

Henry de Bathe, grand juſticiar of England[n], and paſſed from his family, by a female heir, to the Bohuns; were granted by King Henry VIII. in 1543, to Sir William Eſſex and his ſon Thomas. In 1609, an act of parliament paſſed to enable their deſcendant, then in poſſeſſion, to ſell his eſtates in Lambourn, for the payment of his debts: not long afterwards theſe manors became the property of Sir William Craven, anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, the Earl of Craven.

The manor of Eſtbury, in this pariſh, was, at an early period, in the family of Fitzwarren. Anne, Ducheſs of Exeter, heireſs of the Fitzwarrens, and relict of Sir Richard Hankeford, died ſeiſed of it in 1458[o]. Her only daughter and heireſs, by her firſt huſband, brought the title of Fitzwarren and this eſtate to the Bourchiers. The manor of Eſtbury is now the property of Sir Francis Burdett bart. by inheritance from the family of Jones, of Ramſbury. Another manor in this hamlet was ſucceſſively in the families of Wanting[p] and Eſtbury[q]. The priory of Wallingford had a manor alſo in Eſtbury[r].

The manor of Bockhampton, in this pariſh, was anciently in the families of De Bathe[s] and Teyes[t], who had alſo the manor of Blagrave in this pariſh. The manor of Bockhampton was held by grand ſerjeanty, by the ſervice of keeping a pack of harriers for the royal hunt at the king's charge[u]. This manor, of which Margaret Counteſs of Shrewſbury died ſeiſed in 1468[x], is now the property of Lord Holland. It was not long ago in the family of Garrard, who had poſſeſſed it many years.

William Hobbeſhort held an eſtate in this pariſh, by the ſerjeanty of carrying the king's horn, when he came to hunt within the hundred of Lambourn[y]. Blount, in his Ancient Tenures, ſays, that the ſame lands were holden by the ſervice, "*cuſtodiendi domino regi ſex meretrices, ad cuſtum domini regis*[z]."

The

[n] Cart. Antiq. in Turr. Lond. [o] Eſch. Hen. VI. [p] Eſch. Edw. III.
[q] Eſch. Edw. III.—Hen. IV. [r] Eſch. Rich. II. [s] Eſch. Hen. III.—Edw. I.
[t] Eſch. Edw. I.—Edw. III. [u] Blount's Tenures. [x] Eſch. Edw. IV. [y] Eſch. 32 Edw. I.

[z] Mr. Manning, in his Hiſtory of Surrey, has brought forward ſeveral inſtances where lands were holden by ſimilar tenures, and different words have, in ſubſequent records, been ſubſtituted for *Meretrices*, as *Puellas*, *Communes fœminas*, and *lotrices*, on which he grounds an ingenious and plauſible argument that theſe *meretrices* were no other than ordinary women ſervants, to be provided by the ſeveral lords of the manors holding by ſuch tenures, when the court was in their neighbourhood. There is a deciſive authority, however, on the other ſide, which will not admit of the word being taken in any but its literal ſenſe: it appears that one of the duties of the marſhal, as given by Sir Henry Spelman (ſee his Gloſſary *in verbo Mareſchal)* from the *Liber Ruber Scaccarii*, was to provide "*douze damoiſellez a la Court le Roy, qui devioient faire ſeirement a ſon Bacheler, qu'elles ne ſauveroient aultres putains a la Court*

The manor of Bernes, in this pariſh, was in 1631 the property of John Stephens, who inherited it from the Organs[z]. No further account of it could be obtained, nor could it be found on inquiry, that any eſtate in the pariſh is now known by this name.

The pariſh church of Lambourn is a very handſome and ſpacious Gothic ſtructure, in the form of a croſs. On the ſouth ſide are two chantry chapels, one of which, dedicated to St. Mary, was founded by John Eſtbury or Iſbury, who died in 1372; the other dedicated to the Holy Trinity, by his deſcendant of the ſame name, who died in 1485, as appears by the epitaphs on their tombs. In the centre of the ſouthern chapel is an altar tomb, on which is the effigies of the founder, John Iſbury, who died in 1485, in copper, habited in a ſurcoat, with his arms enamelled. John Iſbury, ſon, it is probable, of the laſt-mentioned John, founded an alms-houſe or hoſpital near the church-yard at Lambourn, for ten poor men. This hoſpital was liable to be diſſolved at the reformation, on account of ſuperſtitious uſages, but was continued by an act of parliament, paſſed in the 31ſt year of Queen Elizabeth, under which a new ſet of regulations was ordained by the archbiſhop of Canterbury, and other commiſſioners appointed for that purpoſe. In 1589 it was determined that Francis Alford eſq. (ſuppoſed to have been the repreſentative of the founder) and his heirs, and the warden of New College in Oxford, ſhould have the appointment of the poor men; and that the ſaid Francis Alford, his heirs and aſſigns, ſhould have the management of the eſtates. In 1619, Henry Alford of Wokingham conveyed the ſuperviſorſhip of this hoſpital to Richard Organ, whoſe ſiſter and heir married the anceſtor of the Rev. John Hippeſley, of Stow in Glouceſterſhire, now joint ſuperviſor with the warden of New College. The will of the founder ſpeaks of one of the chapels as built by himſelf; perhaps he rebuilt it: the epitaph of his father and of John Eſtbury, who died in 1372, afford evident proof that the two chapels were originally built by them. In the ſouthern chapel are ſome memorials of the family of Hippeſley. The alms-men attend divine ſervice every morning in this chapel, kneeling round the tomb of their founder's father, which is ſurrounded with a frame, deſk, and cuſhions for that purpoſe. A copy of the prayer that is now uſed, hangs up in the chapel: it is probable that it was compoſed by the commiſſioners under Queen Elizabeth's act, or altered by them ſo as to adapt it to the reformed religion. The original penſion of the alms-men was 8d. a-week each; they now receive three ſhillings a-week, beſides a guinea at Chriſtmas,

*Court qu'elles meſmes, ne Ribaudes ſans avowerie de affre; ne laron ne meſel quelles ne les monſteront au Mareſſcal; et il doit pourveoir la Court de tout.*"

The author of *Fleta*, treating of the office of marſhal in time of peace, Book 2. c. 5. ſays, that he was to keep the virge of the court free "*à meretricibus communibus*," who were ſubjected to ſevere puniſhments if taken within the palace. Fleta, Edit. 1647, p. 71.

[z] Eſch. Car. I.

and

and three loads of wood each: the reſerved rents of 74 buſhels and a half of wheat, and 51 buſhels and a half of malt, are divided among them; they have great coats every other year, and are entitled to ſome other ſmall payments in money*. In the north tranſept of Lambourn church is the monument of Sir Thomas Eſſex, who died in 1558, with the effigies of himſelf and Margaret his lady in alabaſter. There are ſome memorials alſo in this church for the family of Garrard, who were ſettled at Bockhampton in this pariſh for nearly two centuries, and for the Seymours of Inholmes, who have reſided there nearly as long. The arms on their monument are the ſame as thoſe of the Somerſet family. On the monument of Edward Seymour eſq. who died in 1798, are ſome verſes by Mr. Pye, the Poet Laureat. His ſon of the ſame name, a minor, is the preſent proprietor of the family ſeat. The Garrards are extinct in the male line; their repreſentatives, by female deſcent, are John Blagrave eſq. of Calcot, and Thomas Goodlake eſq.

The great tithes of this pariſh, which from an early period have been appropriated to the church of St. Paul, were held on leaſe for many years under the dean and chapter, by the Garrards. The leaſe is now veſted in Edward Withers eſq. of Newbury. The dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage.

At *Upper-Lambourn*, a conſiderable hamlet or tithing in this pariſh, was formerly a free chapel, now deſtroyed. It belonged to the dean and chapter of Weſtminſter, who ſurrendered it to the crown in 1544. According to the returns made to parliament in 1801, there were 346 inhabitants in Upper-Lambourn, 398 in Eaſtbury and Bockhampton, and 337 in *Blagrave*, another hamlet or tithing. Eaſtbury and Blagrave have been incloſed, by an act of parliament paſſed in 1776, when an allotment of ten acres was aſſigned to the poor, in lieu of furze. Bockhampton was incloſed by an act paſſed in 1778; Upper-Lambourn by an act paſſed in 1802. The lands were not exonerated from tithes by either act. In 1803, an act of parliament paſſed for incloſing Chipping-Lambourn and King's-heath, in the tithing of Blagrave: under this act, an allotment of land in lieu of tithes was made to the vicar.

LANGFORD, about three miles diſtant from Lechlade in Glouceſterſhire, is ſituated partly in Berkſhire, although detached from that county. The village ſtands partly in Berkſhire and partly in Oxfordſhire. The editor of Aſhmole's Collections ſays, that the two counties divide the church and church-yard.

King Henry II. gave the church of Langford, and lands which had been the property of Robert biſhop of Saliſbury, to the church of St. Mary at Lincoln. Theſe lands, conſiſting of the manor and rectory of Langford, now form the eſtates

* From the information of Mr. Hippeſley.

of

of two prebends in that church; they are both leaſed on lives. The leaſe of the manor was for ſome time in ſeveralties in the families of Broderwick, Cockerill and Pye; it now belongs to Mr. Thomas Myers, of Langford, who purchaſed it of the repreſentatives of the late Mr. Dyneley. The leaſe of the rectory, which is alſo held for lives, is now veſted in the executors of the late Rev. Mr. Stevens. The advowſon of the vicarage, held on a ſub-leaſe under the rectorial leſſee, is now veſted in the preſent vicar, Mr. Johnſon. The vicar receives inſtitution from the biſhop of Oxford, in whoſe dioceſe the pariſh is ſituated, but the eccleſiaſtical juriſdiction is veſted in the prebendary of the rectory. In the pariſh church are ſome memorials for the family of Broderwick.

King John, in the year 1204, gave his lands in Langford to the abbot and convent of Beaulieu; they were ſituated at *Little-Faringdon*, a hamlet of this pariſh, lying wholly in Berkſhire, which perhaps did not acquire its preſent name till after the above-mentioned donation. It is probable that Faringdon church and this chapel were both built by the abbot and convent of Beaulieu, and by the ſame architect, the ſtyle being ſimilar; from this circumſtance might have ariſen the name of the hamlet, after the chapel was built. The manor of Little-Faringdon is now the property of James Muſgrave eſq. who inherited it from the Perrots of Barneſley in Glouceſterſhire. This hamlet has been incloſed, under an act of parliament paſſed in 1788, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the prebendary of Langford, in lieu of great tithes, and a corn-rent to the vicar. *Grafton*, another hamlet of this pariſh, is wholly in Oxfordſhire.

LETCOMBE-BASSET, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies three miles to the ſouth-weſt of Wantage. It was ſo called from the Baſſets, who were proprietors of the manor in the 13th century[b], having inherited it from Robert d'Oilly, to whom it was given by the Conqueror. At a later period it was in the Harpedens[c], and afterwards in the Fettiplaces. William Fettiplace eſq. in 1526, gave a moiety of this manor to the provoſt and ſcholars of Queen's College in Oxford, for the purpoſe of endowing a chantry, ſchool, and alms-houſe, at Childrey. The preſident and ſcholars of Corpus-Chriſti College, Oxford, are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The pariſh of Letcombe-Baſſet has been incloſed, under an act of parliament, paſſed in 1772, when an allotment of land was aſſigned in lieu of tithes to the rector.

Dean Swift retired to the houſe of his friend Mr. Gery, the rector of this place, after his unſucceſsful attempt to reconcile Lord Oxford and Lord Bolingbroke, in

[b] Fin. Rot. Hen. III. [c] Eſch. Hen. VI.

the

the month of June 1714, and, during three months reſidence here, wrote his pamphlet, entitled, "Free Thoughts on the preſent State of Affairs[d];" it was not then publiſhed, on account of Queen Anne's death, which happened whilſt he remained at Letcombe, but was printed in 1741.

LETCOMBE-REGIS, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies two miles to the ſouth-weſt of Wantage; it was ſo called, as having been parcel of the ancient demeſnes of the crown. The manor of Letcombe-Regis continued in the royal family till after the death of Richard Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, brother of King Henry III. in 1246[e]. It was afterwards in the Liſles[f]. A large portion of this pariſh, rated in Pope Nicholas's *valor* at 46l. *per annum*, was given, by ſome of its royal owners, to the alien monaſtery of Clugny, in Burgundy, and became a ſeparate manor, which was purchaſed of that convent in 1412, by William Porter eſq.[g] Both theſe manors were for a conſiderable time in the family of Fettiplace. The greater manor (probably the ſame which formerly belonged to the abbey of Clugny) was given by one of the Fettiplace family to Mr. Scroggs, of whoſe widow it was purchaſed by Bartholomew Price eſq. Mr. Price's ſon ſold it to the Rev. Mr. Craven, of whom it was purchaſed by the preſent proprietor, Exuperius Turner eſq. The other manor paſſed from the Fettiplaces to the Sayers, of whom it was purchaſed by the father of Mr. Hughes, the preſent proprietor. The manor-houſe on this eſtate, which was encompaſſed with a moat, appeared, by the remains which exiſted within the memory of man, to have been a manſion of ſome conſequence. Over the gate-way was a large apartment called the guard-room[h]. The cuſtomary tradition, which attributes the origin of moſt ancient houſes, whoſe early hiſtory is enveloped in obſcurity, to King John, prevailed with reſpect to this old manſion.

In the eaſt window of the pariſh church are the arms of Langley, of Kent, impaling Tame, of Fairford. Aſhmole mentions the figures of John Mermylle, with a hunting horn, and his wife. Part of the inſcription only now remains, with the arms of Mermylle, Or, a bat volant, vert.

The great tithes of Letcombe-Regis were appropriated to the nuns of Ambreſbury, before the Conqueſt; they are now veſted in the church of Wincheſter; the dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The townſhip of Letcombe-Regis, with the hamlet of Eaſt-Challow, have been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1801; the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

[d] Swift's Letters in the octavo edition of his works, 1784. [e] Eſch. 30 Hen. III. [f] Eſch. Rich. II. [g] Pat. 13 Hen. IV. [h] From the information of the Rev. Mr. Batchelor.

The ancient entrenchment on the Downs, called Letcombe-caſtle, is in this pariſh.

*Weſt*, or *Little-Challow*, and *Eaſt*, or *Great-Challow*, are both in this pariſh. The manor of Weſt-Challow belonged, at a very early period, to the nuns of Ambreſbury. It was granted, in 1542, to Sir Thomas Seymour, paſſed ſoon afterwards to the Plotts, and had been for ſeveral generations in the Pigot family, when it was ſold, about the year 1800, by the Rev. Mr. Pigot to Mr. Thomas Hatten, together with the impropriation. Petwick, a manor in this pariſh, belonged alſo to the nuns of Ambreſbury, and has ſince paſſed through the ſame hands. There is a chapel of eaſe at Weſt-Challow, in which are ſome memorials of the Pigots; divine ſervice is performed in this chapel only once a month. The lord of the manor appoints the miniſter, and has a burial place for his family in the chapel; the reſt of the inhabitants are carried to Letcombe-Regis for interment. The hamlet of Weſt-Challow has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1802, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the impropriator in lieu of tithes.

Eaſt-Challow belonged anciently to the Achards[1], from whom it deſcended by female heirs to the De la Mares and Forſters. Challow houſe was built by Mr. Bance, of whoſe executors it was purchaſed by Bartholomew Price eſq. It is now the property and reſidence of Exuperius Turner eſq. Near the manſion is a chapel of eaſe for the hamlet. The tithes of Eaſt-Challow belong to the family of Drummond.

East-Lockinge, in the hundred of Wanting, lies about two miles to the eaſt of Wantage. The manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was for many years in the family of Keate, of whom it was purchaſed by the Wymondeſolds, about the year 1720. It is now the property of J. P. Baſtard eſq. M. P. in right of his wife, who was widow of the late Mr. Wymondeſold.

In the church are ſome memorials of the families of Keate and Wymondeſold. Eaſt-Lockinge is in the deanery of Abingdon. The warden and ſcholars of All-Souls College, in Oxford, were patrons of the rectory till the year 1764, when it was annexed, by act of parliament, to the wardenſhip of that ſociety. The manor of Weſt-Ginge, in this pariſh, has paſſed with that of Eaſt-Lockinge, and is now the property of Mr. Baſtard.

Longworth, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies about eight miles north-weſt of Abingdon, and about ſeven miles north-eaſt of Faringdon, to the north of the London road. There were formerly two manors in this pariſh, one belonging to

[1] Granted with Aldermaſton.—Mr. Congreve's Papers.

the abbot and convent of Abingdon, called Weſt-Longworth, the other a lay manor which was ſucceſſively in the families of Beſils and Fettiplace. The Fettiplaces ſurrendered it to the crown in 1538. The manor of Longworth with the advowſon (including, probably, the eſtate which had belonged to the Fettiplaces), was granted in 1552, to Lord Clinton and Henry Herdſon. It was afterwards in the families of Edmayne and Fyſher[k]. Sir Henry Marten, dean of the Arches, judge of the Prerogative Court, and of the High Court of Admiralty, who was eſteemed the firſt civilian of his age, purchaſed this manor early in the 17th century. His ungodly ſon Harry, as Wood with great truth calls him, repreſented the county of Berks in the reign of King Charles I. where he diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his zealous hatred of royalty, of which he gave the finiſhing proof by ſigning the death warrant of his ſovereign. After the reſtoration, he was tried with the other regicides, and condemned; but his life was ſpared, his puniſhment being changed to perpetual impriſonment. This profligate man died in Chepſtow-caſtle in 1680, having, long before his death, ſquandered the fortune which his father had, from a ſmall beginning, acquired by his induſtry and talents, and alienated the manor of Longworth, and other eſtates which he inherited in this county[l]. Longworth is now the property of the Rev. John Loder, in whoſe family it has been a conſiderable time.

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials for the family of Marten. The monument of Sir Henry Marten above-mentioned, who died in 1641, has been deſtroyed. The fragments of it remain in the north aiſle. None of the braſs plates mentioned in Aſhmole's notes now remain, excepting thoſe of Richard Yate eſq. 1498, and Eleanor Godolphyn, 1566.

The principal and ſcholars of Jeſus College, in Oxford, are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. In the pariſh regiſter is the following entry of the baptiſm of Biſhop Fell, who, by ſome writers, is erroneouſly ſaid to have been born at Sunningwell. "John, ſon of the right worſhipful Samuel Fell, rector of Longworth, baptized July 16, 1625." On an oppoſite leaf is the following note: "This John Fell was dean of Chriſt-Church and lord biſhop of Oxford: his father was dean of the ſame church. The ſon lies buried in Chriſt-Church cathedral."

At *Charney-Baſſet*, a conſiderable hamlet of this pariſh, nearly four miles ſouth of Longworth, is a chapel of eaſe, of Saxon architecture. The manor of Charney, having been part of the poſſeſſions of the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted, in 1544, to Sir William Gorfyn. It is now the property of G. A. L. Keck eſq. M. P.

[k] Eſch. Ph. and Mar. [l] Ant. Wood.

The

The ancient entrenchment called Cherbury camp is in an inſulated part of this pariſh, ſurrounded by Hinton and Puſey.

The manor of *Southmoor*, a hamlet in the pariſh of Longworth, belongs to the preſident and ſcholars of St. John's College, in Oxford, having been given them by their founder, Sir Thomas White.

MARCHAM, in the hundred of Ock, lies between three and four miles to the weſt of Abingdon. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted, in 1547, to William Box. In 1646 it was in the Pigot family, from whom it paſſed by purchaſe, in 1691, to Felix Calvert, and in 1717, to Robert Meggott, whoſe ſon John took the name of Elwes[m] on ſucceeding to the large eſtates of Sir Harvey Elwes, in Suffolk. Marcham is now the property of his ſon George Elwes eſq. The manor, or reputed manor, of Upwood, in this pariſh, is the property of Sir Charles Saxton bart.

In the pariſh church is the tomb of Sir Robert Corbet, who died in 1403 (with his effigies engraven on a braſs plate), and the monument of Edward Fettiplace eſq. 1540.

The great tithes which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon are now veſted in the dean and chapter of Chriſt-Church College, in Oxford, who are patrons of the vicarage. The lord of the manor has been for many years leſſee of the tithes. The vicar has half the great tithes of *Frilford*, a hamlet of this pariſh, about a mile to the north-weſt of Marcham. The other half is held by Mr. Elwes under the college. The manor of Frilford, which was ſucceſſively in the St. Elens, St. Amands[n], and Golafres[o], is now veſted in the preſident and ſcholars of St. John's College, in Oxford, to whom it was given by the founder. The preſident and ſcholars of Magdalen College have alſo a manor in this hamlet.

*Garford*, another hamlet, about two miles weſt of Marcham, has a chapel of eaſe. The manor, which was in the Golafres[p], now belongs to the Earl of Craven, in whoſe family it has been a conſiderable time. *Cothill* or *Cotwell*, is alſo a hamlet of this pariſh.

MILTON, in the hundred of Ock, lies between three and four miles to the ſouth of Abingdon. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted, in 1547, to Lord Wriothesley; it paſſed ſoon afterwards into the family of Calton, who poſſeſſed it above 200 years. This manor is now the property of Mr. James Barrett, whoſe father purchaſed it about the year 1768 of

[m] A life of Mr. Elwes, who reſided at Marcham, and was noted for his great penturiouſneſs and other ſingularities, was publiſhed by Edward Topham eſq. [n] Eſch. Edw. III. [o] Eſch. Hen. VI. [p] Ibid.

the Caltons. In the manor-houſe is a chapel fitted up for the ſervice of the Roman Catholic religion, the windows of which have been ornamented with ancient ſtained glaſs. The Rev. J. G. Warner, the lately deceaſed incumbent, was patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The free ſchool in this pariſh was built and endowed in his life time by the munificence of Mr. Warner, at an expence of 2000l.

NORTH-MORETON, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about four miles weſt of Wallingford. Sir Miles Stapleton, the laſt heir male of a family who had poſſeſſed this manor during a long ſeries of years [q], died ſeiſed of it in 1467 [r], leaving two daughters co-heirs. Some time afterwards it became the property of Sir Ralph Sadler, who gave it to King Henry VIII. in 1547. The preſent proprietor is Robert Hucks eſq. in whoſe family it has been a conſiderable time. The ſouth aiſle of the pariſh church is called Stapleton's Chantry. The nuns of Godſtow had an eſtate in this pariſh [s]. The rectory is annexed to the archdeaconry of Berks; the archdeacon is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

SOUTH-MORETON, in the hundred of Moreton, lies about four miles nearly weſt of Wallingford. A manor in this pariſh called Huſes, belonged, at an early period [t], to the ancient family of Huſe, who continued to poſſeſs it till 1409 [u], and perhaps later; it was afterwards in the Brays [x], from whom it took its modern name. The preſent proprietor is Mr. John Sadgrove, who inherited it from the family of Leaver. Mr. Sadgrove has alſo the manor of Sanderville, which belonged to a family of that name in the reign of Edward I [y]. The manors of Adreſham and *Fowleſcote*, a hamlet in this pariſh, were in the family of Norris, and afterwards in the Braybrokes [z]. Adreſham belonged lately to the Tomlinſons, and is now the property of Mr. John Kirby. Fowleſcote, now called Fulleſcote, belonged for a conſiderable time to the family of James, of Denford, and is now the property of Sir W. James James bart. The advowſon of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon, was, in 1754, veſted by act of parliament in truſtees for the uſe of the principal and ſcholars of Magdalen hall, Oxford, in exchange for an alternate right of preſentation to the rectory of Finchampſted, given to that ſociety by Dr. Palmer.

NEWBURY, a large market town in the hundred of Faircroſs, is ſituated on the banks of the Kennet, near the road from London to Bath, 56 miles from Hyde-

[q] Eſch. Edw. II. &c. [r] Eſch. Edw. IV. [s] Pope Nicholas's *Valor*. [t] Cart. 55 Hen. III. Eſch. Edw. III. &c. [u] Eſch. 10 Hen. IV. [x] Sir Reginald Bray's will. [y] Eſch. Edw. I. [z] Eſch. Hen. VII. and Eliz.

park

park corner. This town has been ſuppoſed to have acquired its name from having riſen to conſequence after the decay of Spene, a neighbouring village; which, according to the opinion of moſt antiquaries, was the Roman town of *Spinæ*. This conjecture ſeems to be ſo far erroneous, as it reſpects the origin of Newbury. It appears that, on the death of Thomas Earl of Perch in 1216, his heir, the biſhop of Chalons, ſold the manor of Newbury, which had been the property of his anceſtor Ernulfus de Heſdin, to William Marſhall, Earl of Pembroke [a]. The only manor mentioned in the Domeſday Survey as belonging to Ernulfus de Heſdin, is that of Uluritone, in the hundred of Tacheham (which hundred is now within the modern hundred of Faircroſs), and it appears to have been a *town*, for there were 51 *hagæ*, or houſes, which paid a tax or quit rent to the lord. Theſe *hagæ* are mentioned only in the deſcription of towns; it muſt be obſerved, that no mention is made of any at Spene; at Thatcham, which was an ancient borough town, only 12, and at Reading only 29. It ſeems clear, therefore, that at the time of taking the Norman Survey, Spene was only a village; and Newbury a town of conſiderable conſequence, then known by the Saxon name of Uluritone, perhaps a corruption of Ulwardetone from Ulward, who poſſeſſed it in the reign of King Edward the Confeſſor. *Newbury* was certainly the name of a caſtle built by the Earls of Perch, who founded the neighbouring monaſtery of Sandleford, and it is probable that it was transferred to the town inſtead of its ancient Saxon name.

Our hiſtorians inform us that king Stephen won Newbury caſtle by aſſault in 1152 [b]. At a later period this town became the ſcene of two battles, in the memorable civil war between King Charles I. and his parliament; at both of which the king commanded in perſon, the Earl of Eſſex having the command of the parliamentary army. The firſt battle was fought on the 18th of September, 1643 [c]. The king was then in poſſeſſion of the town, whither he had arrived with his whole army about two hours before the Earl of Eſſex, who had advanced from Hungerford, for the purpoſe of recovering the town from Prince Rupert. The Earl, finding Newbury pre-occupied by the King, ſtationed his army on Biggs hill, within a mile of the town, where they paſſed the night of the 17th. The next day the battle was fought with equal courage on both ſides, and with ſuch doubtful ſucceſs that each party claimed the victory; for although the Earl left the royal army the next day in poſſeſſion of the field of battle, yet he accompliſhed what he intended, which was to march with his own army to London. On the king's ſide fell the Earls of Carnarvon and Sunderland, and the accompliſhed Lord

[a] Camden. [b] Holinſhed. [c] Clarendon; Heath ſays the 20th.

Falkland.

Falkland. After the battle the king returned to Oxford. The royal army was ſtationed at Newbury for about a month, in the ſpring of 1644[d].

The ſecond battle which was fought near this town happened on the 27th of October 1644; the king came to Newbury for the purpoſe of relieving Donnington Caſtle, and, having ſucceeded in his intention, was waiting for the return of the Earl of Northampton, who was gone with a detachment to the relief of Banbury, when the parliament having intelligence of the weak ſtate of the royal army at Newbury, the Earl of Eſſex, Sir William Waller, and the Earl of Manchester, joined their forces, and being further reinforced by the trained bands from London, advanced towards the king, determined to bring him to an engagement as ſoon as poſſible. The king himſelf was quartered in the town, and had placed ſtrong guards on the ſouth; the greater part of his army were ſtationed in the village of Shaw, in Mr. Dolman's houſe, in a houſe between the village and Newbury, about which an earth-work was caſt up, and in a mill on the Kennet, all which lay nearly eaſt from the town. The horſe and artillery were in two open fields to the north, and at Spene were Prince Maurice's foot. The parliamentary army lay towards Thatcham. Several ſkirmiſhes occurred during the two days before the general battle, which, although the king's force was ſo inferior, was fought with various ſucceſs, principally between Spene and Newbury. The village of Spene was taken, during the conteſt, by the parliamentary army. Mr. Dolman's houſe at Shaw was attacked, but the beſiegers were repulſed by its commander, Col. Page. No perſons of great note fell in this battle. Each party again claimed the victory. On this occaſion the parliamentary army were left in poſſeſſion of the field; they marched into Newbury, and made breaſt-works and batteries to ſecure the town, which they reſolved to keep. The king retired to Oxford, where, having been reinforced by the Earl of Northampton, he returned to Newbury, recovered his cannon which he had left on the field, relieved Donnington Caſtle, and ſupplied it with proviſions in the face of the parliamentary army, who declined quitting their quarters at Newbury to give him battle. He then marched with his army to Lambourn[e]. Sir Thomas Fairfax was quartered with the parliamentary army at Newbury, in April 1646. Heath ſpeaks of tumults at Newbury in 1664, which were ſuppreſſed by Sir Thomas Dolman.

Newbury is a market town by preſcription. The market, which is on Thurſdays, is a great mart for corn. There are four annual fairs, Holy Thurſday, July 5, September 4, and November 8, being the feſtivals of St. John the Baptiſt, St. Bartholomew, and St. Simon and St. Jude, Old Style: there is a large ſtatute-fair alſo for hiring ſervants on the firſt Thurſday after the 10th of October.

[d] Clarendon. [e] Clarendon.

Newbury

Newbury ſent two members to parliament in the reign of Edward I. and in the reign of Edward III. three repreſentatives to a great council at Weſtminſter, being then a conſiderable trading town[f]. It was formerly celebrated for its clothing manufacture, which though much declined, had not been wholly diſcontinued till of late years: there are now ſome cotton manufactories near the town. It does not appear that Newbury has decreaſed in population ſince the removal of the clothing manufacture; indeed, the influx of trade in conſequence of the ready communication which it now has by navigable canals with London and Briſtol, has been ſuch, that on the contrary it appears to have increaſed in population as well as in opulence. By a return made to cardinal Pole, in 1555, when the clothing trade was at its greateſt height, it appears that the number of inhabitants was then 1600. Mr. Penroſe, in his anſwer to the queries of Mr. Rowe Mores in 1759, calculates the houſes at above 800; the inhabitants at 5000. Willis's map of the environs of Newbury, publiſhed in 1768, ſtates the houſes at 930, the inhabitants at 3732[g]. Mr. Pearce, in his Agricultural Survey of Berkſhire, in 1794, calculates the inhabitants at 5500. When the returns were made to parliament, under the population act in 1801, the number of houſes was found to be 965, of which 931 were inhabited, the number of inhabitants 4275. It muſt be obſerved, that this does not include the tithing of Speenhamland, which adjoins to Newbury, and apparently part of that town, although it is within the pariſh of Spene. In this tithing were 147 houſes and 712 inhabitants.

The town of Newbury was incorporated, in 1586, by Queen Elizabeth, who had honoured it with a viſit in 1568[h], and, it is probable, at other times in her Berkſhire progreſſes. The corporation conſiſts of a mayor, high-ſteward, recorder, ſix aldermen, and 24 capital burgeſſes. The town is well built, and the ſtreets ſpacious. The gaol and a town-hall, in which are held the Eaſter ſeſſions, and other public meetings, are over the old market-houſe, an ancient timber building. Over the new market-houſe, a brick building of modern date, is an aſſembly-room, ſometimes called the new town-hall, adjoining to which are ſome ſmaller apartments, where the private buſineſs of the corporation is tranſacted: their public meetings are held at the old town-hall.

The manor of Newbury was confirmed, in 1220, to William Marſhall, Earl of Pembroke, who had purchaſed it of the biſhop of Chalons, as already mentioned. In the reign of Edward I. it appears to have been divided between the Mohuns and Mortimers, as coheirs of Sibella de Ferrars, who was herſelf one of the coheireſſes

[f] Brown Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria. [g] By this calculation the number of Inhabitants ſeems to be very much under-rated, being ſcarcely more than four to a houſe. [h] Queen Elizabeth's Progreſſes.

of

of the Marſhalls[i]. Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, died ſeiſed of a moiety of this manor in 1360[k]. In 1465, a third part of the manor of Newbury, with the fairs and market, which had belonged to Thomas Cornwall eſq. was granted to Thomas Herbert, ſquire of the body to Edward IV[l]. In 1495, the manor of Newbury was in jointure to the queen[m]; it is now veſted in the corporation, to whom it was granted by King Charles I. in the firſt year of his reign.

The pariſh church is a handſome ſtructure, built in the reign of Henry VIII. principally, as it is ſaid, at the charge of John Winchcombe, a wealthy clothier of this town, commonly known by the name of Jack of Newbury. This celebrated perſon, who died in the year 1519, lies buried in Newbury church, by the name of John Smallwode, alias Wynchcombe. The braſs plate, with his effigies, which was formerly placed over his tomb, is now fixed againſt the eaſt wall of the north aiſle. It is probable that he had, in his life-time, been a benefactor towards the rebuilding the church, which being unfiniſhed at his death, he bequeathed 40l. towards its completion, as appears by his will in the Prerogative office. This John Winchcombe, who was a very wealthy clothier, is ſaid to have kept 100 looms at work in his own houſe, and to have marched, at the head of 100 of his workmen, "as well armed and better *clothed* than any[n];" in the expedition againſt James of Scotland, which was terminated by the action of Flodden Field. It is ſaid, alſo, that he had the honor of entertaining his monarch, and his queen, Catharine of Arragon, at his houſe at Newbury; but all the anecdotes relating to this celebrated perſon muſt be received with caution, as they ſeem, though related by Fuller, to have been taken from a ſmall pamphlet, entitled, the Life of Jack of Newbury, which was evidently written many years after his death, and abounds with improbabilities and anachroniſms. There is a modern edition of it, printed at Newbury. A picture, which hangs in a room over the new market-houſe, in which the corporation hold their private meetings, being a copy from the original at Buckleſbury, is erroneouſly ſaid to be the portrait of the celebrated Jack of Newbury; whereas it is, in fact, that of his ſon, John Smallwode, alias Winchcombe, who died in 1557, as appears by the pariſh regiſter. The date which accompanies the portrait is 1550, and the perſon it repreſents is ſaid to have been then 61 years of age. This picture has been copied for the ſign of Jack of Newbury, at the inn of that name, which is ſaid to ſtand on the ſite of John Winchcombe's dwelling-houſe. John Winchcombe, the ſon, became poſſeſſed of conſiderable landed property, chiefly by the grants of monaſtic eſtates. Henry Winchcombe, his deſcendant,

[i] See Eſch. 25 and 29 Edw. I. [k] Eſch. 34 Edw. III. [l] Pat. 5 Edw. IV.
[m] Parliament Rolls. [n] Fuller's Worthies.

was created a baronet in 1671. The title became extinct at his death. The preſent repreſentative of the family is Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley, a minor, ſon of the late Henry Winchcombe Hartley eſq. one of the repreſentatives in parliament for the county.

The rectory of Newbury, which gives name to a deanery, is in the gift of the crown. William Twiſſe, a noted calviniſtical writer, and prolocutor of the aſſembly of divines, who was a native of Speenhamland, was rector of Newbury. He afterwards exchanged this benefice for Newton-Longueville, in Buckinghamſhire[o]. There is a portrait of him in the veſtry at Newbury.

St. Bartholomew's hoſpital, in this town, is ſaid to have been founded by King John, who granted a fair at the feſtival of St. Bartholomew, for its ſupport. It was formerly under the government of a maſter, warden, or prior[p]. It is now, by the charter of Queen Elizabeth, veſted in the corporation, who allow the penſioners (ſix men and ſix women) 3s. 6d. a week each; beſides which they have coats and gowns once in two years, 13s. 4d. on St. Thomas's day; and 5s. each, ariſing from the tolls of the fair, which is held in an adjoining meadow, on St. Bartholomew's day. Each perſon has alſo yearly a waggon load of peat, and ſix ſcores of faggots. The chaplain has a ſalary of 12l. *per annum*, under the charter of Queen Elizabeth.

Oppoſite to St. Bartholomew's hoſpital is a ſet of alms-houſes, founded by Sir Jemmet Raymond, in 1670, for ſix poor men, and the ſame number of women, who are allowed 3s. 6d. each weekly; gowns and coats every year, and the ſame quantity of wood and peat as the penſioners in St. Bartholomew's hoſpital. Theſe alms-houſes have been rebuilt out of the fund. Since the death of Jemmet Raymond eſq. ſon of the founder, the vacancies in theſe alms-houſes have been thus filled up; the corporation nominate two perſons, out of whom the rector ſelects one.

Thomas Pearce, about the year 1671, endowed two alms-houſes for poor weavers; Francis Coxhed, in 1690, two other alms-houſes for poor men: theſe are conſolidated, and under the direction of the Preſbyterian diſſenters. The penſioners receive 3s. 6d. a week each, firing, and great coats once in two years.

Mr. Thomas Hunt, in 1729, founded an alms-houſe for three poor widows, the preference to be given to his neareſt of kin. They receive, under his will, 3s. a week each, 20s. for firing, and every other year 20s. for a gown. The ſurplus-money, ariſing from the eſtate left for this purpoſe, is applied to the teaching of

[o] A. Wood. [p] Tanner.

poor children, of which the number is at preſent twenty-five; Mr. Kimber added 6s. a week to this fund.

Mr. Benjamin Robinſon, in 1754, founded three alms-houſes for poor weavers, and endowed them with 2s. per week each, and a waggon load of peat yearly; Mr. Kimber increaſed their allowance to 3s. 6d. a week: they are ſupplied with clothes according as the fund permits.

Near the old market-houſe are twelve alms-houſes, built in 1795, purſuant to the will of John Kimber eſq. already mentioned, at the expence of nearly 2000l. for ſix poor men, and the ſame number of women. They are remarkably neat and commodious; the allowance to each of the penſioners is 5s. per week, and fuel: they have clothes every other year.

Beſides thoſe already mentioned, there is an alms-houſe on St. Mary's-Hill, founded about the year 1656, by a benefactor now unknown, for ſix old maids, and endowed with a weekly allowance of 2s. 6d. to each, which, by Mr. Kimber's benefaction, is made up 3s. 6d. beſides peat and faggots. There is another alms-houſe alſo, called the church alms-houſe, for ſix poor men, and ſix women, the founder and date of foundation of which are unknown. This alms-houſe, which was ſituated in the church-yard, having become ruinous, and there being no ſufficient fund for rebuilding it, Sir Jemmet Raymond's old alms-houſe was purchaſed and repaired, for the reception of the penſioners belonging to it, who receive a weekly allowance from the fund of 2s. 6d. each, augmented to 3s. 6d. by Mr. Kimber, beſides peat and faggots.

Mr. John Kendrick, of Reading, who died in 1624, gave the ſum of 4000l. to provide a workhouſe for the poor of this town, and to furniſh them with employment. A great part of this benefaction appears to have been loſt, as at Reading; with a part of it was purchaſed the wharf, and ſome other premiſes at Newbury, which produce a rent of 160l. *per annum*, at the diſpoſal of the corporation: what remains is lent, without intereſt, in ſums of fifty pounds, to weavers, for three years.

PADWORTH, in the hundred of Theale, lies about eight miles to the ſouth-weſt of Reading. The manor was, at an early period, in the family of Coudray [q], who held it by the ſervice of finding a ſailor to manage the ropes of the Queen's veſſel, whenever ſhe ſhould paſs over into Normandy [r]. The Coudrays continued to poſſeſs this manor in 1465 [s]. About the year 1700 it paſſed, by marriage, from the Brightwells, in whoſe poſſeſſion it had then been for a conſiderable time, to the

[q] Eſch. Hen. III. [r] Blount's Tenures. [s] Eſch. Edw. IV.

Griffiths.

Griffiths. After the death of the late Mrs. Griffith, relict of Chriſtopher Griffith eſq. who was one of the repreſentatives in parliament for the county of Berks, it devolved to her ſiſter's ſon, Matthew Chitty Darby eſq. ſecond ſon of the late Admiral Darby, who has taken the additional name of Griffith. Padworth-houſe, a handſome modern manſion, ſtands on an eminence, a little ſouth of the Kennet, and forms a conſpicuous object from the Bath road. It is now in the occupation of Edward Clarke eſq.

Another manor, in this pariſh, was conveyed in 1399, by William Mulſo, to William of Wickham, Biſhop of Wincheſter[t].

The pariſh church, which is very ſmall, exhibits a curious ſpecimen of ancient architecture[u]. The rectory of Padworth is in the deanery of Reading, and in the patronage of the crown.

PANGBOURN, in the hundred and deanery of Reading, is ſituated near the banks of the Thames, about ſix miles from Reading, on the road to Wallingford. The manor of Pangbourn was granted, in the fourth year of Edward the firſt, to Felicia Shortford, who had been nurſe to the king's ſon[x]: in the year 1550, the ſame manor, then lately parcel of the poſſeſſions of the abbot and convent of Reading, was granted to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, (afterwards Duke of Northumberland,) who was beheaded in 1553. Queen Mary granted this manor to Sir Francis Engleſield, who, in the ſucceeding reign, loſt this, and other conſiderable eſtates by attainder. Pangbourn was granted by Queen Elizabeth, in 1563, to Thomas Weldon, cofferer of her houſehold, and his ſon; the latter, in 1613, ſold it to Sir John Davis[y]. In 1671, John Breedon eſq. purchaſed it of the repreſentatives of the Davis family; it is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Symonds Breedon, who ſucceeded to this eſtate, on the death of John Breedon M. D. purſuant to the will of the Doctor's father, John Breedon eſq. who died in 1776, and has ſince taken the name of Breedon, in addition to that of his own family.

Bere-Court, the ſeat of Dr. Breedon, was given by Bingham, Biſhop of Saliſbury, to the abbot and convent of Reading, in 1230[z]. This place became a ſummer reſidence of the abbots. It now retains very few traces of its ancient deſignation, excepting the arms of Hugh Faringdon, the laſt abbot, among ſome other ſtained glaſs in the windows of the hall. His figure, mentioned in Aſhmole's Collections, has been removed, and the chapel pulled down. Since the Reformation, Bere-Court has paſſed with the manor of Pangbourn. Sir John Davis, above mentioned, who became poſſeſſed of it in 1613, had been a perſon of ſome note in the reign of

[t] Cl. 1 Rich. II. [u] See p. 205. [x] Cart. 4 Edw. I. [y] From the information of Dr. Breedon. [z] Ibid.

Queen Elizabeth. He was patronized by the Earl of Eſſex, and was by him employed in ſome expeditions, in which he gained conſiderable honour: at the taking of Cadiz he was created a knight banneret, and afterwards had the command of a ſucceſsful expedition to the iſland of Terceres. When his patron, the Earl of Eſſex fell, he became ſo far involved in his fate, as to have ſentence of death paſſed upon him as a traitor, but had the good fortune to obtain a reſpite, and in 1601 a free pardon. After his purchaſe of Bere-Court, he retired thither, and ſpent the remainder of his days in ſtudious retirement. Camden ſpeaks of him, as an excellent mathematician. He entered deeply alſo into the ſcience of judicial aſtrology, then ſo much in faſhion, and was a pupil of the celebrated Dr. Simon Forman[a]. Sir John Davis died in 1625, and lies buried in Pangbourn church, where there is a monument to his memory, with his effigies in chalk. There is a monument alſo for the wife of his ſon, Sir John Davis the younger, who was ſiſter of Sir John Suckling the poet, and others of her family. Anne, daughter and heir of Sir John Davis the younger, married Sir Thomas Lee, of Hartwell, in Bucks, the firſt baronet of that family. Bere-Court is pleaſantly ſituated among hills, in a very retired ſpot, about a mile from Pangbourn. From a tower on one of the neighbouring eminences, is a fine view of the rich ſcenery with which this part of Berkſhire abounds.

In the pariſh church, beſides the monuments of the Davis family already mentioned, are ſome memorials for the families of Robinſon and Breedon. The rectory of Pangbourn belonged, from a very early period, to the abbot and convent of Reading. Dr. Breedon is now patron and incumbent. A wooden bridge acroſs the Thames, from Pangbourn, to Whitchurch in Oxfordſhire, was built under the powers of an act of parliament, in 1792.

Peasemore or Peysmer, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about eight miles to the north-weſt of Newbury, and about five miles to the ſouth-weſt of Ilſley. The manor was anciently in the De la Beches[b], from whom it paſſed to the Langfords[c]. It was afterwards the property of Thomas Chaucer eſq. whoſe daughter, Alice, brought it in marriage to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk[d]: from the De la Poles it paſſed by purchaſe to the family of Head[e], who, having ſold the manor, retained a ſmall farm, now the property of their deſcendant Sir W. J. James bart. Early in the ſeventeenth century, this manor was in the family of Lyford[f]. William Lyford, born at Peyſmer, was a member of the aſſembly of divines, and a noted writer among the Puritans[g]. In the early part of the laſt century, the manor

[a] Ant. Wood. [b] Eſch. Edw. III. [c] Eſch. Ric. II. [d] Eſch. Hen. VI.
[e] From the information of Sir W. J. James. [f] Eſch. Car. I. [g] Ant. Wood.

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of Peyſmer was in the family of Coward, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Shirleys. Mr. John Shirley bequeathed it, in 1776, to the late John Archer eſq. of Welford, and it is now the property of his grandſon, John Archer Houblon eſq. The priory of Poghley had a manor in Peyſmer; a part of the pariſh is ſtill called Priors-ſide.

The only remarkable inſcription in the pariſh church, is that to the memory of Mr. William Coward, lord of the manor, who died in 1739. This gentleman, though unknown to fame for want of a poet or hiſtorian to ſpeak his worth, ſeems to have equalled the more celebrated man of Roſs, in the rare art of doing much good with a ſmall fortune. Poſſeſſing only an income of 110l. *per annum*, he built in his life-time, at his own expence, the tower of the pariſh church, gave the great bell and communion plate (amounting to near three years produce of his ſlender income), beſides maintaining a hoſpitable table, and being eminently charitable to the poor[g]. The Rev. Mr. Watts of Uffington is the preſent patron of the rectory; the reverſion of the advowſon, after his deceaſe, is veſted in Mr. Archer Houblon. Peyſmer is in the deanery of Newbury.

PURLEY, in the hundred of Theale, lies four miles north-weſt of Reading, near the road to Wallingford. The manor of Great-Purley was, for ſeveral generations, in the family of Carew[h], from whom it paſſed by female heirs to the Iwarbys[i] and St. Johns[k]. It was bought of the St. John family, by Sir Robert Mackreth, and afterwards paſſed, by two ſeveral purchaſes, to Mr. Martindale and the late Anthony Storer eſq. who was about to build a new houſe on the eſtate, which has ſince been erected from deſigns of James Wyatt eſq. purſuant to the directions in Mr. Storer's will, which appropriated a ſum of money for that purpoſe. Purley-Houſe and manor are now the property of the honourable Mrs. Storer, ſiſter-in-law of the late proprietor. The reverſion is veſted in her ſon. A manor in Purley, which belonged to Reading Abbey, was granted, in 1550, to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, and is ſuppoſed to have been ſince attached to the manor of Great Purley.

The manor of Little-Purley belonged in 1218 to the Cifrewaſts[l], from whom it paſſed to the families of Malyns[m] and Morris[n]. In the reign of Charles I. it was purchaſed by the family of Lybbe, from whom it deſcended to the preſent proprietor, Ph. Lybbe Powys eſq. of Hardwick, on the oppoſite ſide of the Thames.

Purley-Hall, now the ſeat of the Rev. Dr. Wilder, was built by Mr. Hawes, one of the South-Sea directors in the memorable year 1720. It was purchaſed of

[g] See his Epitaph. [h] Eſch. Ric. II. Edw. IV. [i] One of the co-heireſſes of Nicholas Carew, who died in 1467, married Sir John Iwarby. [k] Jane, daughter and heir of Sir John Iwarby, married Sir John St. John, who died in 1512. [l] Cl. 2 Hen. III. and 30 Edw. I. [m] Eſch. Ric. II. [n] Eſch. Edw. IV.—Eliz.

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his family by the preſent proprietor, about the year 1778. It is ſituated in the three pariſhes of Purley, Sulham, and Whitchurch, which extends acroſs the river from the Oxfordſhire ſide.

In the pariſh church are memorials for the families of Hawes, of Purley-Hall, Hyde, and Liebenrood, a tablet in memory of Thomas Storer eſq. with an inſcription, written by his ſon, and another for the late Anthony Storer eſq. In the eaſt window is ſome ſtained glaſs, by Mr. Catton, of Purley. The rectory is in the deanery of Reading, and in the patronage of the crown.

PUSEY, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies about five miles eaſt of Faringdon, to the ſouth of the London road. The manor is ſaid to have been granted to the family of Puſey by King Canute, and an ancient horn is ſtill preſerved, by which it is ſaid to have been held. The tenure of lands by cornage, or the ſervice of a horn, was by no means unfrequent; and the Puſey horn, as well as the family of Puſey, are of conſiderable antiquity; but it may be much doubted, whether they poſſeſſed the manor of Puſey till long after the time of Canute. When the Norman Survey was taken, there were two manors in Puſey; the principal manor, which belonged to Roger de Iveri, and a ſmaller one, which belonged to the foreign monaſtery of St. Peter *ſuper Dinam*. The lay manor had, in the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, been the property of Aluric, a freeman. The firſt mention of the Puſeys to be found on record, is in the year 1316*; but it appears by ancient deeds, in the poſſeſſion of the preſent proprietor, that they had been ſettled at Puſey for ſix generations before Henry Puſey, who appears to have been then lord of a manor in this pariſh. The family became extinct, in the male line, in 1710, by the death of Charles Puſey eſq. who bequeathed the manor to his nephew, John Allen eſq. directing that he ſhould take the name of Puſey, in addition to his own. In caſe of Mr. Allen's dying without iſſue, it was entailed on the iſſue male of his ſiſters and his nieces, the Allens, ſucceſſively, who, upon their inheriting the eſtate, were to aſſume the name of Puſey. The ſiſters of Mr. Puſey being deceaſed without iſſue, the two ſiſters of Mr. Allen Puſey (he having died alſo without iſſue) joined in ſettling this eſtate on the Hon. Philip Bouverie, uncle by the half blood of the preſent Earl of Radnor, and nephew of Mr. Allen Puſey's lady, who was daughter of Sir William Bouverie bart. Mr. Bouverie has taken the name of Puſey, and has been many years in poſſeſſion of the eſtate, which was given up to him in the life-time of Mrs. Jane Allen, the laſt ſurvivor of the ſiſters, who died in 1789. Mr. Puſey has a handſome ſeat in this pariſh. In the reign of Henry VIII. the Fettiplace family had two eſtates in this pariſh, called the manor of Byſhops,

* See the Nomina Villarum, No. 6281, Harl. MSS. Brit. Muſ.

and the manor of Mauncel's-Court. One of theſe, it is probable, was the manor which belonged to the monaſtery of St. Peter *ſuper Dinam*. Nothing can be learned of their ſubſequent hiſtory: it is ſuppoſed that they are now united to Mr. Puſey's eſtate.

Alice Paternoſter, in the reign of Edward I. held lands in Puſey, by the ſervice of ſaying a Paternoſter five times a day, for the ſouls of the king's anceſtors; and it appears that Richard Paternoſter, on ſucceeding to an eſtate in this pariſh, inſtead of paying a ſum of money as a *relief*, ſaid the Lord's Prayer thrice before the Barons of the Exchequer, as John, his brother, had done[p].

The pariſh church was rebuilt at the expence of Mr. Allen Puſey. The memorials of the families of Dogget and Dunch, as recorded by Aſhmole, are in the north tranſept, which is divided from the nave by an Ionic ſkreen. In a ſimilar tranſept, on the ſouth ſide, is a very handſome monument by Scheemaker, in memory of John Allen Puſey eſq. and his lady. Mrs. Allen Puſey, who died in 1742, was daughter of Sir William Bouverie bart. and ſiſter of the firſt Lord Viſcount Folkſtone. The remarkable epitaph of William White, recorded by Aſhmole, is now placed on the outſide of the chancel. The Biſhop of Saliſbury is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. A corn-rent, in lieu of tithes, and of part of the glebe, was aſſigned to the rector by act of parliament, in 1753.

Radley, in the hundred of Hormer, lies three miles to the north-eaſt of Abingdon. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was purchaſed in 1575, by George Stonhouſe eſq. one of the clerks of the green-cloth to Queen Elizabeth. His eldeſt ſon was created a baronet in 1628. Sir George Stonhouſe, his ſecond ſon, having diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his activity in the ſervice of King Charles I. was obliged, by the parliamentary ſequeſtrators, to pay a large ſum, as a compoſition for his eſtates. The preſent baronet, Sir Thomas Stonhouſe, is eldeſt ſon of the late Rev. Sir James Stonhouſe bart. M. D. who died in 1795. The Radley eſtate, on the death of the Rev. Sir James Stonhouſe, younger brother of Sir William Stonhouſe bart. and couſin of the laſt mentioned Sir James, paſſed, in 1792, to his nephew, Capt. George Bowyer, who was created a baronet in 1794, for his ſervices in the celebrated engagement with the French fleet, on the firſt of June that year. Sir George Bowyer was a younger brother of Sir William Bowyer bart. of Denham-Court, in Buckinghamſhire, whoſe title alſo he inherited, upon his death without iſſue, in 1799. Sir George died, at his ſeat at Radley, December 9, 1800, being then admiral of the blue, and was ſucceeded

[p] Blount's Tenures.

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in title and eſtate by his ſon, now Sir George Bowyer, in whom both the baronetcies are veſted.

In the pariſh church is a very handſome monument, with the effigies of the deceaſed in robes, in memory of Sir William Stonhouſe, the firſt baronet of the family, who died in 1632, and his eldeſt ſon, Sir John, who ſurvived his father only four months.

The great tithes, which were appropriated to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, are now veſted in Sir George Bowyer. The benefice, which is in the deanery of Abingdon, is a donative in his patronage.

*Sugworth*, in this pariſh, was once a conſiderable hamlet, now depopulated: the manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, is now Sir George Bowyer's. Part of the hamlet of *Kennington* is in this pariſh.

READING, an ancient and populous borough and market town, which gives name to a hundred, is ſituated on the road from London to Bath, 39 miles from Hyde-Park corner.

The firſt mention which occurs of Reading, in hiſtory, is in the year 871, at which time it is deſcribed as being a fortified town belonging to the Saxon kings, but then in poſſeſſion of the Danes, who had thrown up an earth-work between the Thames and the Kennet[q]. The Danes retreated thither, after their unſucceſsful battle at Engleſield, with Earl Ethelwolf, who was ſoon afterwards ſlain by them, in a ſally from the town[r]. After their defeat by King Alfred, at Aſhdown, they returned again to Reading, where they remained unmoleſted till the following year. They then marched to London[s]. In 1006, the town of Reading was burnt by its old enemies, the Danes; and a convent of nuns then exiſting, under the government of an abbeſs, was deſtroyed[t]. King Henry I. in 1121, laid the foundation of a magnificent abbey on its ſite, which was completed in the year 1124. This great n. naſtery, of which more particular mention will be hereafter made, was the uſual reſidence of our kings, during their frequent viſits to this town: after the reformation it became, for a time, one of their palaces. The founder, it may be preſumed, was not an unfrequent gueſt at the abbey, which became the place of his ſepulture. His funeral was attended by King Stephen[u], William, Earl of Warren, and four other earls. King Stephen was at Reading in 1140. The next year his opponent, the Empreſs Maud, was received there with diſtinguiſhed honours[x].

[q] Aſſerius. [r] Ibid. [s] Sax. Chron. [t] Sim. Dunelm. William of Malmſbury, and King Henry's Charter. [u] Holinſhed. [x] See Coates's Hiſtory of Reading, from which all the hiſtorical facts, and other particulars relating to the town, collected by him with much diligence, are taken, unleſs other authority is quoted.

In

Neele Sculpt 352 Strand.

# PLAN OF THE TOWN OF READING,

*Copied by permission of the Rev.d Chas. Coates, from the Plan prefixed to his History of that Town.*

In 1153, Reading Caſtle, which had been held by King Stephen, was given up to Henry II. then duke of Normandy, purſuant to an agreement made before the walls of Wallingford[y]. It is ſaid that the caſtle was then wholly demoliſhed. No traces of it remained, even in Leland's time, excepting in the name of a ſtreet[z].

King Henry II. was preſent in 1163, at a ſingle combat, fought between Henry de Eſſex, hereditary ſtandard-bearer to the king, and Robert de Montfort. Eſſex, who had been accuſed by his opponent, of cowardly abandoning the royal banner, upon a falſe rumour of the king's being ſlain, or taken in a battle with the Welſh, was vanquiſhed, and left on the field as dead; but he recovered, and aſſumed the habit of religion in Reading abbey, his lands being forfeited to the crown. In 1164, the king was preſent at the dedication of the abbey church: he kept his Whitſuntide at Reading in 1175, and his Eaſter in 1177: in 1184, he was preſent at a convocation there, in which Baldwin was elected Archbiſhop of Canterbury. In 1185, he went thither to meet Heraclius, Patriarch of Jeruſalem, and he was there again the following year. King Richard I. held a parliament at Reading, in 1191.

When the ſtudents of the univerſity of Oxford were driven away from that place by the cruelty of King John's officers, many of them ſettled for a time at Reading, that they might purſue their ſtudies unmoleſted[a]. In 1212, the pope's legate held a council there, for the purpoſe of endeavouring to effect a reconciliation between King John and the exiled biſhops. In 1213, the king met the legate and barons at Reading[b], and held a parliament: he was there again in 1214 and 1216. King Henry III. was at Reading in 1226: the next year he kept the feſtival of Chriſtmas there: he was there again in 1238. In 1241, he held a parliament at Reading, when Richard, Earl of Cornwall, took a ſolemn leave, previouſly to his going to the holy-land[c]. The king was at Reading in 1244, 1248, and 1259. In 1263, he held a parliament in the refectory of the abbey[d].

King Edward II. was at Reading in 1314, when his officers ſeized 23 quarters of oats, belonging to Nicholas At-Oke, of Stratfield-Mortimer, for the king's chickens, and as much litter as was valued at 13s. which he had provided for the reception of his landlord, the Biſhop of St. David's. On a petition to parliament,

[y] Holinſhed. [z] There can be little doubt, but that the old county gaol, in Caſtle-Street, occupied the ſite of the caſtle; and that the lancet windows and round arches, diſcovered upon pulling down the building in 1798, were part of the original ſtructure. Mr. Coates ſeems to give too much weight to Hearne's conjecture. See Hiſtory of Reading, p. 145. [a] Holinſhed.
[b] Mat. Paris. [c] Kennet's Parochial Antiquities. [d] Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria.

ſatisfaction was ordered to be made to the owner, the officers having refuſed to pay either for the litter or corn: the oats were valued at 3l. 11s. 4d[c].

In 1346, a great tournament was held at Reading. In 1359, John of Gaunt was married in the abbey to Blanch Plantagenet, daughter of Henry, duke of Lancaſter. In 1384, King Richard II. and his nobles, being aſſembled at Reading, together with the mayor and aldermen of London, John Northampton, late mayor of that city, was convicted before them of ſeditious practices, and ſentenced to perpetual impriſonment. In 1389, a great council was held at Reading, at which the king and his barons were reconciled by John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaſter. Parliaments were held at Reading in 1440 and 1451: the parliament was adjourned from Weſtminſter to Reading in 1452, on account of the plague. King Edward IV's marriage with Elizabeth, Lady Grey, having been kept ſecret for ſeveral months, was firſt openly acknowledged at Reading in 1464, on which occaſion ſhe made her public appearance at the abbey, being conducted thither by the Duke of Glouceſter, and the Earl of Warwick. In 1466, the parliament was again adjourned to Reading, on account of the plague.

King Henry VIII. was at Reading in 1509 and 1526, and his queen, Catharine of Arragon, in 1529; the king was there again in 1541, the diſſolved abbey being then one of his own palaces. King Edward VI. was at Reading in 1552: it being his firſt viſit to the town, the mayor and aldermen, who met his Majeſty on his arrival at Coley-Croſs, preſented him with two yoke of oxen, and the mayor rode before him, bare-headed, to the palace. Philip and Mary came to Reading in 1554, and were met by the corporation and principal inhabitants: the ſame ceremony, and the ſame preſent were repeated. Queen Elizabeth ſeveral times viſited her palace at Reading; ſhe was there in the years 1568, 1572, 1575, 1592, 1602, and in 1603, not long before her death: her Majeſty had a pew in St. Lawrence's church. King James paſſed through Reading in 1612; his queen, Anne of Denmark, was there the following year.

Michaelmas term, in 1625, the firſt year of the reign of Charles I. was kept at Reading, on account of the plague then raging in London: the High Court of Chancery, the courts of King's-Bench and Common-Pleas, of Wards and Liveries, and the court of Requeſts, were held in the great hall, and other parts of Reading abbey, which was then going to decay: the court of Exchequer was in the town-hall, the court of Augmentations in the ſchool-houſe. The lord-keeper lodged at Sir Edward Clark's; the lord-treaſurer and attorney-general at the Friars, and moſt of the judges at the Bear Inn.

[c] Rolls of Parliament.

In

In the month of October, 1642, Reading was one of the parliamentary garriſons, and is deſcribed as being well fortified, but wanting ordnance: upon the approach of a party of the king's horſe, on the firſt of the following month, Harry Marten, the governor, quitted the town, and fled with his garriſon. On the fourth, King Charles came himſelf to Reading, whence he advanced towards London; after the battle of Brentford, he returned thither on the 19th: after ten days ſtay at Reading, he marched to Oxford, having appointed Sir Arthur Aſton governor, with a garriſon of 2000 foot, and a regiment of horſe.

On the 25th of April, 1643, the Earl of Eſſex marched from Windſor to the ſiege of Reading; the earl took his poſt at a knight's houſe, about a mile from the town, on the ſouth-weſt, (ſuppoſed to have been Sir John Blagrave's, at Southcote), and began to batter one of the outworks of the garriſon, at a place called Harriſon's barn, on the Newbury ſide of the town: the chief management of the ſiege was entruſted to General Skippon: the parliamentary army made entrenchments towards the Oxford road. The king had a fortified poſt at Maple-Durham, and another at Caverſham, on the Oxfordſhire ſide of the river, both of which were taken by the beſiegers; from Caverſham, which commanded the town, they beat down a ſteeple, ſuppoſed to be that of St. Giles, where the garriſon had placed ſome ordnance. Within a week after the commencement of the ſiege, Sir Arthur Aſton, the governor, was wounded on the head by a tile, and ſo far incapacitated that the management of the garriſon devolved on the lieutenant-governor, Colonel Fielding, who, on the 25th, hung out a flag for a parley. The town capitulated on the 27th; and it was agreed, that a poſt ſhould be opened on the Newbury ſide, for the lord-general to march into the town: had the garriſon held out a day longer, it would have been relieved, for the king was then at hand, with his army; but the accounts of both parties agree, that the treaty for capitulation had begun before the king's approach was known. Col. Fielding was tried for the ſurrender, and condemned to loſe his head, but was afterwards pardoned: Lord Clarendon declares it as his opinion, that there was no proof againſt him, either of cowardice, or of treaſonable correſpondence with the enemy; but he never recovered the imputation, or was entruſted with any command. With reſpect to the practicability of defence, the accounts differ widely; Lord Clarendon ſays, that the fortifications were too mean to endure a regular ſiege: the parliamentary writers repreſent the town as ſtrongly fortified, particularly Vicars, who ſays that people wondered at its ſurrender; the trenches about the town being ſo deep and wide, the works ſo ſubſtantially made, the paliſadoes round them ſo firmly fixed, that it was thought 5000 men could ſcarcely have taken it by ſtorm. The chief forts were placed to guard the principal approaches to the town; one at the Forbery, another at the end of

Pangbourn-lane, and a third at Harriſon's-barn, near the road to Newbury. The only remains of fortifications now to be ſeen are the high rampart, forming a horn-work, which ends at Forbery-hill, and ſome earth-works near the end of Caſtle-Street, ſuppoſed to be the ſite of what was called "the invincible fort, at Harriſon's-barn."

The accounts of the loſs on each ſide, during the ſiege, differ much: the beſiegers are ſaid to have loſt only 40 men: the loſs of the garriſon is variouſly reported: the pariſh regiſter of St. Giles's and St. Mary's being defective at that period, the real loſs cannot well be aſcertained: at St. Lawrence's nine ſoldiers only were buried. During the ſiege, a ſervant of Sir Lewis Dyve ſwam acroſs the Thames, backwards and forwards, to give intelligence to the garriſon, but was taken on his return. Sir Samuel Luke, the Hudibras of Butler, was in the parliamentary army, and wrote a journal of the ſiege[f]. The Earl of Eſſex continued at Reading till the 26th of May, when he went for ſome days to Lord Craven's houſe at Caverſham, then in poſſeſſion of the parliament.

After the firſt battle of Newbury, which happened in the month of September that year, Eſſex marched to Reading, where he halted two days with his army, and then quitted the town to the king's forces, upon which it was again made a royal garriſon, 3000 foot and 500 horſe being left for its defence, under the command of Sir Jacob Aſtley; who, for his good conduct as governor there, was created Baron Aſtley, of Reading. On the 16th of May, 1644, the king marched with his army to Reading, and made Coley-houſe, the ſeat of the Vachells, his head-quarters for three days. During this ſhort ſtay, he cauſed the works to be demoliſhed: he then evacuated the town, and it was taken poſſeſſion of by the Earl of Eſſex, who immediately ſent ſome troops thither for that purpoſe.

The Earl of Mancheſter was at Reading with his army Sept. 8, 1644. On the 15th of the next month, Cromwell came thither with his regiment of horſe. On the 17th the Earl of Mancheſter marched from Reading to Aldermaſton. On the 23d of November ſome of the parliamentary army took up their quarters in the town, but they ſeem to have had no regular garriſon there. On the 24th of December, Major Crauford marched from Reading, with 4000 horſe and foot, and took a ſupply of proviſions to Abingdon. General Skippon was at Reading with his army, May 17th, 1645. In the month of January, 1646, Reading was garriſoned for the parliament; on the 19th orders were iſſued for martial law. In the month of April following, Barkſtead, the regicide, was governor of the garriſon. The parliamentary army under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax, had their head-quarters at Reading, July 3, 1647. Reading having been ſo long a garriſon town,

[f] Printed in Coates's Hiſtory of Reading.

and ſo frequently the head-quarters of one of the contending parties, the inhabitants were almoſt ruined by the heavy contributions, to which they were from time to time ſubject.

When Charles II. and his queen paſſed through Reading, in 1663, the corporation preſented his Majeſty with 50 pieces of gold, the queen with 30; the fees to their ſervants amounted to 37l. 6s. In 1687, James II. paſſed through the town on his road to Saliſbury. In 1688, a ſkirmiſh happened at Reading, in which fell the only officer of the Prince of Orange's army, who loſt his life in the expedition, which effected the happy revolution of that year. King James's army, conſiſting of ſome Iriſh and Scotch regiments, had been quartered at Reading, and had quitted it on hearing that the Prince of Orange was advancing with the main body of his army. The inhabitants, immediately on their departure, invited the prince to take poſſeſſion of the town, and ſecure them from the Iriſh, of which nation the king's army was then chiefly compoſed, and of whom they, in common with the reſt of the kingdom, ſeemed to have entertained a great dread. The king's army having received intelligence, that it was only a detachment from the Prince of Orange, that had advanced to Newbury, returned to Reading, and poſted ſome Iriſh dragoons to defend the bridge; the Scotch were drawn up in the market-place, when the Prince of Orange's troops entered the town, a ſlight ſkirmiſh enſued, and a few lives were loſt, but the king's troops ſoon fled with precipitation, and left the town in poſſeſſion of their opponents[s]. This affair became the ſubject of a ballad, called the "Reading-Skirmiſh, or the bloody Iriſh, routed by the victorious Dutch." The anniverſary of the Reading fight is ſtill commemorated by bell-ringing in the three pariſhes. In the year 1700, Queen Anne making her firſt progreſs through the town, was met by the corporation in ſtate, and preſented with 40 broad pieces of gold in a new purſe.

It has been already curſorily mentioned, that King Henry I. founded Reading Abbey in 1121, and that the building was completed in 1124. The great church was built ſeveral years afterwards, and was conſecrated by Archbiſhop Becket in 1164. The abbey was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangeliſt. The monks were of the Benedictine order, and their number is ſaid to have been originally 200, but it does not appear that they exceeded half that number at any ſubſequent period. Reading was made one of the mitred abbeys, and endowed by the founder, with the town and manor of Reading, and all the lands which had formerly belonged to the monaſteries of Reading, Cholſey, and Leominſter, then ſome time ſince deſtroyed; he gave them alſo the privilege of having a mint and mint-maſter at Reading. Ample donations were beſtowed on

[s] Kennet's Hiſtory.

the

the convent by ſucceeding monarchs and other benefactors, till it became one of the richeſt monaſteries in the kingdom. Its revenues, at the time of the diſſolution, were eſtimated at 1938l. 13s. 3½d. clear yearly income, which according to the preſent value of money, is at leaſt 20,000l. *per annum*. As a proof of the ſplendor of its eſtabliſhment, it appears that in Abbot Quaplode's time, about the year 1305, when great economy was thought neceſſary to be adopted, on account of the monaſtery being then in debt, and a reduction of their houſehold was reſolved on, 37 ſervants were retained.

It has been already mentioned, that ſeveral parliaments were held in this abbey, in the great hall or refectory, as it is ſuppoſed. Two eccleſiaſtical councils were held here alſo, one appointed by Cardinal Pandulph, in the reign of King John, for ſettling the differences between him and the exiled biſhops, the other by Archbiſhop Peckham, in 1279. At this council, ſeveral eccleſiaſtical ſtatutes were ordained, and ſome particular conſtitutions made for ſupporting the privileges of the univerſity of Oxford.

The founder, King Henry I. and his ſecond Queen Adeliza, were buried in the conventual church at Reading, where alſo were interred, ſome of the younger branches of the houſe of Plantagenet. The coffin of the royal founder was ſuppoſed to have been diſcovered in digging the foundation of the preſent houſe of correction, in 1785; but Mr. Coates, in his Hiſtory of Reading, gives good reaſons why it could not have contained the remains of that monarch. In the year 1397, when King Richard II. granted the monks a confirmation of their liberties and privileges, he made it the condition of their charter, that they ſhould within one year from that time, handſomely repair the tomb and ſtatue of their founder [h].

Reading Abbey was diſſolved in 1539. Hugh Cook, alias Faringdon, although reported by Dr. London, one of the commiſſioners, to have been as conformable as any man in the kingdom, and though it is ſaid that he had expreſſed ſentiments which would not lead one to ſuppoſe that he would have been very obſtinate in refuſing to acknowlege the king's ſupremacy, yet it is certain, that he either did ſo, or committed ſome other act, which was then deemed treaſonable, for on the fourteenth of November, in the ſame year that the abbey was ſurrendered, he was hanged, drawn, and quartered, at Reading, with two of his monks.

After the reformation, Reading Abbey was kept by the king in his own hands, and committed to the care of Thomas Vachell eſq. In 1550, King Edward VI. granted it to the Duke of Somerſet. Queen Mary, in the firſt year of her reign, appointed Sir Francis Engleſield, keeper of the abbey, manor, park, &c. and the ſame year granted the ſite of the abbey to Sir Henry Jerningham, maſter of her

[h] Pat. 21 Ric. II. p. 3.

houſehold. Queen Elizabeth kept the abbey in her own hands. King James I. ſettled it on his queen, and appointed a keeper of the houſe, with a ſalary of 20l. *per annum*, and a keeper of the ſtables, with a ſalary of 12l. 13s. 4d. It was at this time, that Camden, ſpeaking of Reading, ſays "this monaſtery is now turned into a palace, with a fine range of ſtables adjoining, furniſhed with excellent horſes for the king's uſe." It may be ſuppoſed that the abbot's ſtables were not contemptible, for among the ſervants retained for the monaſtery, upon the reduced eſtabliſhment in Abbot Quaplode's time, appears a maſter of the horſe, the abbot's huntſman, his palfry-keeper, and a page under him. After the death of Anne of Denmark, King James's Queen, Reading was ſettled on Charles I. then Prince of Wales, and about this time it ceaſed to be a Royal reſidence. It may be obſerved, that when King Charles occaſionally viſited Reading, during the civil war, he took up his quarters at Caverſham, Coley-houſe, or ſome other manſion in the neighbourhood. It may be ſuppoſed, that the repairs of the abbey having been for ſome time neglected, it was not then fit for his accommodation, indeed it is ſaid that the buildings were much decayed at the time that the courts of law were held there in 1625.

The materials of ſuch parts of this princely ſtructure, as were not wanted for the accommodation of the court, began to be carried away piece-meal very ſoon after the reformation. In 1550, the timber-work of the ceiling of the conventual church, and 21 loads of other timber, were purchaſed by the inhabitants of St. Mary's pariſh, who were then rebuilding their church. Queen Elizabeth's charter gives the corporation liberty to dig and carry away 200 loads of free-ſtone from the ruins of the abbey. During the civil war, what remained of the abbey church was ſtill further dilapidated; the ruins of the north tranſept were then blown up.

The Knollys family reſided in the Abbey-Houſe during the civil war. Sir Francis Knollys and his ſon were burgeſſes for Reading, in the parliament of 1642. The ſon died that year at Reading, whilſt the Earl of Eſſex was in poſſeſſion of the town. Capt. Symonds, who was at Reading in 1644, deſcribed the dining room at the Abbey-Houſe, as having the arms and initials of Queen Elizabeth, for whoſe reception it is probable it was fitted up. When the parliamentary[1] ſurvey was taken in 1650, the Abbey-Houſe was in the occupation of Richard Knollys eſq. The ſurvey deſcribes it, as conſiſting of a hall, parlour, and dining-room, ten chambers, a garret, with a large gallery, and other ſmall rooms; by which it appears to have been more ſuitable for the reſidence of a private family, than that of a court. The great hall of the monaſtery is deſcribed as then remaining "with a very large cellar under the ſaid hall, arched," the ruins of an old large chapel are

[1] Now in the Augmentation Office.

deſcribed

deſcribed alſo, and of a kitchen and other rooms, all fit to be deſtroyed, and the materials are valued at 200l. It is probable that the greater part of theſe buildings were ſoon afterwards taken down. The crypt only of the great hall now remains. In a garden, now occupied by Mrs. Bellafyſe, are the walls of a large room, 72 feet by 38, which Sir Henry Englefield ſuppoſes to have been the refectory, the arches in the upper part of the walls, which are circular, have eſcaped the general havock which has been made of the materials of this magnificent ſtructure, and are the only remaining ſpecimens of the original ſtyle of the building.

Sir H. Englefield, ſpeaking of the preſent appearance of the ruins, juſtly obſerves that, "ſtript by deſtroyers of more than ordinary patience and induſtry, of almoſt every ſtone which caſed the walls, they ſtill, though built only of ſmall flints, defy the injuries of time and weather, and have more the appearance of rocks than the work of human hands." Some of the ſtones were removed not many years ago, to the ſeat of the late Marſhal Conway, who uſed them, in building a bridge over the road from Henley to Wargrave. The abbey mills remain nearly entire, and exhibit ſeveral ſmall circular arches, which appear to be coeval with the foundation of the monaſtery. The gate-way of the abbey, leading to the Forbury, is not of very ancient date.

The ſite of Reading Abbey was granted, in 1661, to Sir Thomas Clarges, who ſold it to John Dalby and Anthony Blagrave. Mr. Dalby's ſhare was purchaſed of that family, by the late Henry Vanſittart eſq. who was unfortunately loſt in the Aurora frigate, and is now the property of his grandſon, a minor. The other ſhare is ſtill in the Blagrave family.

It appears by a record of the reign of King John, bearing date 1205, that there was then a nunnery at Reading, but nothing is certainly known, either of its foundation, its abolition, or its ſite. It appears by the record, that it was under the government of a prioreſs. It has been ſuppoſed, that it ſtood where St. Mary's Church now is. William of Malmſbury, as quoted by Dugdale, ſays that the ancient abbey, which had been deſtroyed many years before the reign of Henry I. was originally a houſe of nuns.

The Friars-Minors, Franciſcan, or Grey-Friars, having obtained the papal authority, and a royal licence, ſettled themſelves at Reading, in 1233, much againſt the will of the abbot[k]. He permitted them, nevertheleſs to build their convent on a piece of waſte ground, leading to Caverſham-bridge, which being in a marſhy ſituation, and ſubject to floods, it was, with much ſolicitation, that he was prevailed on, in 1285, to grant them a new ſite nearer the town, at the weſt-end of what is

[k] See the Chronicle of Dunſtaple.

now

now called Friar-Street; both grants were upon very hard terms, for they were not allowed to acquire any property, or ſolicit any donations, but might accept what was gratuitouſly beſtowed on them. The building of the convent went on ſlowly, as may be ſuppoſed from the poverty of its inhabitants. Robert de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, in 1306 gave them 56 oaks, out of his wood of Aſhridge, in Windſor foreſt. It is probable that this was for the roof of the conventual church. The building was not completed in 1311, for Alan de Banbury, who died that year, left a benefaction of five ſhillings towards it.

The houſe of the Grey-Friars in Reading was ſurrendered to King Henry VIII. in 1539. The warden petitioned that he and his brethren, being aged men, might be permitted to occupy their lodgings during life; but his ſuit was rejected, and the houſe granted in 1540 to Robert Stanſhaw, one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber, from whom it paſſed to the Vachells: it is now the property of John Haycock eſq. The corporation of Reading were more fortunate in their application for the conventual church, which they wanted for a town-hall; it was granted them for that purpoſe in 1543. Having obtained the preſent town-hall, by Queen Elizabeth's charter, in 1560, the church of the grey-friars was converted into a hoſpital or work-houſe, and afterwards, in 1613, into a houſe of correction. It was let many years for that purpoſe, before the building of the new gaol and bridewell, at the rent of 20l. *per annum*, to the juſtices of the county. The ſouth tranſept now ſerves as a houſe of correction for the town. The walls of the church are ſtill entire: the roof of the nave, which is divided from two narrow aiſles by cluſtered columns and pointed arches, remained in 1786; it is now open to the air: the length of the church is 66 feet.

The corporation of Reading was originally a gild, which exiſted, as it is ſaid, before the foundation of the abbey, claiming a charter from King Edward the Confeſſor. The townſmen had frequent diſputes with the abbots; about the extent of their privileges, but they always ended in the acknowledgment of a paramount authority, on the part of the abbots; who, by virtue of King Henry the Firſt's charter, enjoyed the ſame right of control over the town; which, before the foundation of the abbey, was veſted in the crown. The members of the gild were called burgeſſes, as early as the year 1254, when the right of the abbots, to elect a maſter or warden out of three burgeſſes, preſented by the gild, was recognized. The preceding year King Henry III. had granted the gild a charter of privileges and exemptions. In 1351 the maſter was called mayor; the number of burgeſſes was indefinite: among other privileges which they enjoyed, was that of keeping ſwans on the Thames and Kennet. King Henry VII. in 1487, enlarged their authority, and veſted in them a ſuperintendance over the inhabitants in general, particularly the manufacturers of cloth.

After the diſſolution of the abbey, King Henry VIII. granted a new charter to the town, by which the mayor and burgeſſes were made a body corporate, with power of electing new burgeſſes out of the trading inhabitants, and of electing a mayor annually from among the moſt diſcreet of the burgeſſes. By Queen Elizabeth's charter of 1562, the corporation was to conſiſt of a mayor, nine capital burgeſſes, twelve ſecondary burgeſſes, a ſteward, two cofferers, two or more ſerjeants at mace, and a clerk of the market. King Charles I. in 1638 changed the ſtyle of the corporation to that of mayor, aldermen, and burgeſſes, the number of aldermen to be thirteen, including the mayor, with twelve aſſiſtants. The officers under this charter, were a ſteward, two chamberlains, and three ſerjeants at mace: under the ſame charter, the mayor and his deputy, the late mayor, the ſenior alderman, the biſhop of Saliſbury, and his chancellor, are juſtices of the peace for the borough, and have the power of holding a ſeſſions and court of record. The firſt charter of King Charles II. adds a recorder to the officers; in a ſubſequent charter of the ſame monarch, the town-clerk, who had been an ancient officer of the corporation, is firſt recognized; this charter extends their licence of mortmain, which before had not exceeded 500l. *per annum*, to 1000l. *per annum*. The charter of King Charles I. is that under which the corporation now act; but it is in ſome inſtances departed from, under the authority of his ſucceſſors' charters. The corporation hold ſeſſions four times in the year, and a weekly court for the trial of ſmall offences.

Reading claims to be a borough by preſcription, having ſent repreſentatives to parliament from the time of the earlieſt records. The right of election was, in 1708, adjudged to be in the freemen not receiving alms, and the inhabitants paying ſcot and lot: in 1716, it was reſolved, that the right of election was in the inhabitants only, paying ſcot and lot: Mr. Coates obſerves, that the number of votes is eſtimated at 560.

When the ſurvey of Domeſday was taken, 29 houſes only were recorded, as paying tax to the king at Reading, which was then far from being one of the moſt populous towns in the county. After the foundation of the abbey, the frequent reſort of the court thither, and, at a later period, the introduction of the clothing manufacture, much contributed to increaſe its population. According to an account taken by order of Cardinal Pole[1], in 1555, the number of inhabitants of all deſcriptions in Reading was then 2500, of which 850 were in St. Lawrence's pariſh, 600 in St. Giles's, and 500 in St. Mary's; Rocque, in 1761, calculates the total number in the three pariſhes at 8000; Mr. Pearce, in his Agricultural Survey of Berkſhire, in 1794, eſtimates them at 8500. By the returns made to parliament in

[1] In the Bodleian Library.

1801,

1801, under the Population Act, it appears there were then in St. Lawrence's parish, 3170 inhabitants; in St. Giles's, 3416; and in St. Mary's, 3156; making, in the whole, 9742. The increased population of late years may be attributed to the great influx of trade, occasioned by its improved communication, by water, both with the metropolis and the great towns in the west. The town is divided into five wards, called the High-Ward, New-Ward, Minster-Ward, Old-Ward, and London-Ward, for each of which a constable is appointed.

The spring-assizes for the county have been, for many years, held at Reading, and the summer-assizes at Abingdon; it seems as if, previously to the year 1689, both assizes had been for some time held at this town [m]; but, at an earlier period, there is proof that the Lent-assizes were sometimes held at Abingdon [n]. The Epiphany sessions for the county are held at Reading; the Michaelmas sessions, either at Abingdon or Reading, at the option of the magistrates.

It has been already mentioned, that the church of the Grey-Friars, having been originally granted for the purpose of a town-hall, is supposed to have been used as such till after Queen Elizabeth's grant of St. John's hospital, in 1560. The upper part of this hospital, which was then converted into a town-hall, was repaired in 1672, principally at the expence of John Blagrave esq. In 1785 it was rebuilt, and is now a very handsome room, 108 feet in length, 32 in width, and 24 in height. Adjoining to it is a spacious council chamber, in which are, among others, the portraits of Sir Thomas White, founder of St. John's college, in Oxford, Archbishop Laud, and Mr. John Kendrick, all natives of Reading, and great benefactors to the town. There are portraits also of Richard Aldworth esq. ancestor of Lord Braybrooke, who was founder of the Blue-coat school, and Sir Thomas Rich bart. a benefactor to that charity.

The old county gaol, which stood in Castle-Street, seems to have occupied the site of the castle, which, it is probable, was first appropriated to the reception of prisoners about the year 1314; when, upon a petition, presented to parliament by the commonalty of Berks, complaining of the inconvenient situation of the county gaol, then at Windsor, a commission was appointed to inquire where it might be fixed, so as to be most advantageous to the king, and commodious to his Berkshire subjects [o].

The present county gaol, which was built about the year 1793, on the site of some of the abbey buildings, is 163 feet 6 inches in front, and 137 feet 6 inches in depth. It contains a commodious house for the keeper, a room for the recep-

[m] See Coates's History of Reading, p. 461.
[n] See p. 226 of this volume.
[o] See Rolls of Parliament, vol. I. p. 300.

tion of the magiſtrates, a neat chapel, and an infirmary. The male and female priſoners inhabit each a ſeparate wing of the building, which is divided into ſeveral courts, where there are day rooms for labour, and other apartments. There are a few cells for the refractory, and ſome for the purpoſe of ſolitary confinement. The gate-houſe of the monaſtery was, before the charter of Queen Elizabeth, uſed as a compter priſon. It has been mentioned before, that the church of the Grey-Friars was, for many years, occupied as a houſe of correction for the county, before the building of the new gaol and the bridewell.

Reading has had a market of much note, from time immemorial. It is a great mart for corn, of which 50,000 quarters are ſaid to be ſold annually. The chief corn market is on Saturday. The Wedneſday's market is chiefly for butchers' meat, and other proviſions. There are four annual fairs, Feb. 2, May 1, July 25, and Sept. 21. Many thouſand tons of cheeſe are brought to the September fair, from the dairy country, and ſold in the Forbery. The fair, on the 25th of July, (St. James's day,) was granted by a charter of King Henry II. The founder granted the abbot and convent a fair, at the feſtival of St. Lawrence, (Auguſt 10,) now diſuſed. A new market-houſe has lately been built for the ſale of butchers' meat and vegetables.

The clothing manufacture is ſaid to have been introduced at Reading ſo early as the reign of Edward I. and many ſtories are told of Thomas Cole, a rich clothier of that period; it is certain that it flouriſhed in this town, during the 15th and 16th centuries: in the civil war it fell to decay, and never revived. There is now no manufacture of any conſequence carried on at Reading; but it is a place of great trade, which has of late years been much increaſed by the navigable canal, brought thither from Newbury. There are ſeveral excellent wharfs on the Kennet. The principal articles of exportation are hoops, bark, wool, corn, malt, and flour. The malting trade is very extenſive, and it is ſaid that upwards of 20,000 ſacks of flour are ſent annually to the metropolis. The high bridge over the Kennet was rebuilt in 1785; the ſame year the town was paved by act of parliament. The ſtreets are, for the moſt part, ſpacious and well built.

The manor of Reading was given to the abbot and convent by the founder's charter. After the diſſolution, it was for ſome time in the crown, was ſettled on Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I. as part of her jointure, and, after her death, on Charles, Prince of Wales; who, ſome years after he came to the throne[r], granted all manerial rights and privileges appertaining to the borough to the corporation.

The manor of Colley, or Coley, was at an early period in the Vachells, an ancient family, who appear to have reſided at Reading as early as the year 1309.

[r] Anno 1638.

John Vachell was one of the knights of the ſhire in 1324: his grandſon, or great grandſon, ſettled at Coley; and it continued in his deſcendants[q] till the death of Tanfield Vachell eſq. one of the repreſentatives in parliament for the borough of Reading, which happened in 1705. After this, Coley came by purchaſe to Colonel Thompſon, whoſe daughter brought it in marriage to Sir Philip Jennings Clerk. It became afterwards, by purchaſe, the property of William Chamberlayne eſq. late ſolicitor to the treaſury, whoſe ſon has lately ſold it to John Mac Connell eſq. Coley-houſe, the family ſeat of the Vachells, was for a few days the reſidence of King Charles I. during the civil war[r].

The manor of Whitley, a conſiderable eſtate in the pariſh of St. Giles, which had belonged to the abbey of Reading, was granted by Queen Mary to Sir Francis Engleſield; became afterwards the property of the Vachells; was included in Colonel Thompſon's purchaſe of the eſtates of that family, and has from him deſcended to the preſent proprietor, Miſs Frances Jennings.

Whitley-Park (the abbot's park, mentioned by Leland, as being at the entrance of Reading town) was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Francis Knollys. It was afterwards a ſeat of the Kendricks; William Kendrick eſq. of Whitley, was created a baronet in 1679: the title is extinct. Whitley-Park is now the property of Sir William Johnſon bart.

The manor of *Southcote*, a hamlet in the pariſh of St. Mary, has belonged, for more than two centuries, to the family of Blagrave. The manor-houſe was built by John Blagrave, the mathematician: it is probable, that he purchaſed the manor of the Windſors, who poſſeſſed it as early as the year 1558[s]. At a much earlier period it ſeems to have been in the family of Belet. Michael Belet had free-warren in Southcote in 1338[t]. During the civil war, Southcote was the reſidence of Sir John Blagrave, nephew to the mathematician, at whoſe houſe the Earl of Eſſex is ſuppoſed to have been poſted on his advance to the ſiege of Reading. Daniel Blagrave, his younger brother, repreſented the borough of Reading in parliament; he was one of the judges of King Charles I. and, upon the Reſtoration, ſecured his ſafety by flight: the family is now extinct in the male line. The manor and manſion of Southcote, now unoccupied, are the property of John Blagrave eſq. of Calcot, in the pariſh of Tylehurſt, who married a daughter of the late Anthony Blagrave, of Southcote, the laſt heir male of that family. Mr. Blagrave, of Calcot, was the ſon

[q] It is probable, they were tenants of the abbey: after the diſſolution, (anno 1544), Henry VIII. granted to Thomas Vachell eſq. all the abbot and convent's lands in Coley, of which, by the name of the manor of Coley, he is ſtated to have died ſeiſed in 1554. The deſcendants of Mr. Vachell removed, after the ſale of Coley, to Cambridgeſhire and Northamptonſhire.

[r] See p. 332. [s] Eſch. Ph. and Mary. [t] Cart. 12 Edw. III.

of

of Thomas Blagrave eſq. of Watchfield, in Shrivenham, and, it is probable, was deſcended from a family of that name, who, at an early period, poſſeſſed the manor of Blagrave, in Lambourn. The Blagraves, of Southcote, are ſaid to have been deſcended from a Staffordſhire family.

The manor or farm of Battle, in the pariſh of St. Lawrence, which had belonged to Reading abbey, was granted to Sir Francis Knollys, in whoſe family it continued, in a direct line, till the death of the late Sir Francis Knollys, of Fern-Hill, near Windſor. It is now the property of Francis Knollys eſq. late Francis Prankard, who ſucceeded in eſtabliſhing his claim to the eſtates of Sir Francis, as the neareſt of kin, in the female line, and has ſince taken the family name.

There are three pariſh churches in the town of Reading, St. Lawrence's, St. Mary's, and St. Giles's.

St. Lawrence's church appears to have been rebuilt, or conſiderably repaired, in 1434. Among the relicks belonging to this church in 1517, was "a gridiron of ſilver, gilt, with a bone of St. Lawrence therein, weighing three quarters of an ounce, the gift of Thomas Lynd eſq." In this church lies buried John Blagrave, the celebrated mathematician, author of the Mathematical Jewell, and other works, for which he engraved the plates himſelf; he died in 1611: his monument has his effigies, a half length, under an arch, habited in a cloak and ruff, holding a globe in one hand, and a quadrant in the other; underneath is the following inſcription:

"Johannes Blagravus,
Totus Mathematicus,
Cum matre ſepultus."

which he directed by his will: his heirs added ſome very indifferent Engliſh verſes. Mr. Blagrave bequeathed 100l. for the purpoſe of making a colonnade on the ſouth ſide of the church, which was performed by the corporation, purſuant to his intentions in 1619, as appears by an inſcription, in which the donor is ſtyled, "*Generoſus matheſioſque encomiis celeberrimus.*" The church contains no other monument worthy of notice. There are a few memorials for the Hungerfords, of Wiltſhire, and a quaint epitaph on a mural monument in the chancel, to the memory of Richard Fynnemore, or Finmore, brother, it is probable, of William Finmore, who lies buried at North Hinkſey[u]; and it ſeems to have been compoſed by the ſame hand who wrote the inſcription on his monument: "Under thy feet, reader, lie the remains of Richard Fynnemore, his father's Benjamin, and his brother's Joſeph; who, coming from Oxon to the burial of a friend, found here his own grave, Feb. 6, 1664."

[u] See p. 294.

St.

St. Lawrence's is a vicarage without either tithes or glebe; before the reformation the vicar had his lodging in the abbey, the ſame allowance of bread and beer as the monks, ſeven-pence a week for his commons, 20s. yearly for his cloathing, a certain portion of dues and oblations, and a horſe kept for him in the abbey ſtables. The vicar's income now ariſes from the rent of pews, caſual emoluments, and a few ſmall benefactions. In 1640, the patronage was given by King Charles I. through the intereſt of Archbiſhop Laud, to the preſident and ſcholars of St. John's College in Oxford. Dr. John Pordage, who was vicar of St. Lawrence in 1645 and 1646, was an enthuſiaſt of much celebrity, Baxter places him at the head of the Behmeniſts; his ſon Samuel was a dramatic poet: Thomas Gilbert and Simon Ford, his ſucceſſors in the vicarage of St. Lawrence, were both writers; but their publications were not of much importance.

The chapel of St. Edmund in this pariſh, near the weſt end of Friar-ſtreet, was built in 1204 by Lawrence Burgeſs, bailiff of Reading, by permiſſion of the abbot, on condition of his giving an endowment for its ſupport; the founder built a hermitage near it, in which he died. This chapel was defecrated in the time of Abbot Thorne, as appears by a memorial preſented againſt him, in 1479, to King Edward IV. for various inſtances of miſconduct: the memorial ſtates, that this chapel, wherein were laid the bones of many Chriſtian people, was then become a barn; it does not appear that it was ever reſtored to its former ſacred uſe. In 1546 it was repreſented in a ſurvey as a barn very neceſſary for the king's farm of Battle; this barn was ſtanding about 40 years ago.

In the church-wardens' accounts for this pariſh, which begin in the reign of Henry VII. are many very curious entries, from which the following are ſelected; ſome of theſe are not printed among the copious extracts made by Mr. Coates for his Hiſtory of Reading.

"1499. Payed for horſemete for the horſys for the kynges of Colen, on May-day, 6d.
"—— To mynſtrells the ſame day 12d.
"1507. Paid for brede, ale, and beer, that longyd to the playe in the Forebery.
"—— Received Sunday before Bartholomew day for the play in the Forebery, 23s. 8d.
"1514. Payd for a gallon of ale, for the ringers at the death of the king of Scots, 2d.
"1516. Received of the young men for the kyng play, 43s. 11d.
"1518. —— of the tree of the kyng play, late ſtonding in the mercat place, 12d.
"1528. Received of the kyng game at Whytſontide, 42s. 9d.
"1541. Paid to Loreman for playing the p'phett (prophet) on Palm Sunday, 2d.
"1543. Paid for horſe heyr to the dean, and for his labour to play the play in th' abbaye."

It appears that, ſo lately as Queen Elizabeth's reign, the church-wardens made gatherings at the king's ale. Theſe extracts illuſtrate what is called the king-

game, or Kingham, in the church-wardens' accounts at Kingſton upon Thames*. The kings of Cologne are, by a legend of the Romiſh church, ſuppoſed to be the wiſemen who made their offerings to the infant Jeſus, and afterwards travelled to Cologne, where they were all buried: this legend gave riſe to a kind of rude drama, which ſeems to have been a great favourite both before and after the Reformation. The king play is mentioned alſo in the church-wardens' account for the pariſh of St. Giles: thoſe for the pariſh of St. Mary make mention of gatherings at May-games and morrice dances, and at Hoctyde.

St. Mary's church was rebuilt about the year 1551; moſt of the materials for that purpoſe were purchaſed from the abbey-church, then pulled down. In this church is no monument worthy of notice, excepting that of William Kenrick, or Kendrick, ſaid to be deſcended from the Saxon kings; he was brother of John Kendrick, the great benefactor to this town, and grandfather, it is probable, of Sir William Kendrick, created a baronet in 1679; the monument is the work of John and Matthias Chriſtmas, two brothers, who were artiſts of ſome eminence in the reign of King Charles I.

Sir Francis Englefield having, in 1545, purchaſed the impropriate rectories of this pariſh and St. Giles's, with that of the neighbouring pariſh of Tylehurſt, gave them, in 1556, to their reſpective churches for the celebration of maſſes and obits; for which reaſon they became forfeited to the crown, in the firſt year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In 1573 the queen granted the great and ſmall tithes of St. Mary's and St. Giles's to the reſpective vicars of the ſeveral pariſhes and their ſucceſſors. Both theſe endowed vicarages are in the gift of the crown.

Chriſtopher Fowler, vicar of St. Mary's, who was ejected for nonconformity in 1662, wrote ſeveral controverſial tracts; his ſucceſſor, Peter Mews, who had been an officer in the royal army, was afterwards biſhop of Wincheſter: after his promotion to that ſee he did ſignal ſervice in his old profeſſion, having the command of the artillery in the battle fought with the Duke of Monmouth's army at Sedgmoor. He quitted this vicarage in 1667, being ſucceeded by Dr. William Lloyd, afterwards biſhop of Worceſter. The three following vicars, William Reeves, Francis Fox, and Dr. Robert Bolton, were all authors, their works being for the moſt part on theological ſubjects. Dr. Bolton publiſhed alſo ſome treatiſes on the prevailing vices of the age, and eſſays on the employment of time, very popular in their day.

Mr. John Kendrick, in 1624, left the ſum of 250l. to be laid out in lands for the

* See Environs of London, vol. I.

purpoſe

purpoſe of maintaining daily prayers in this church at ſix o'clock in the morning. Mrs. Elizabeth Thorne gave 100l. for the ſame purpoſe.

There is an Anabaptiſt meeting in this pariſh, eſtabliſhed in 1655, which has a ſmall endowment, with a houſe and burial ground, and three other meeting-houſes for the Independents and Methodiſts.

St. Giles's church contains little that is remarkable; the ſpire, which is 70 feet in height, being of Riga fir, covered with copper, was built in 1790, at the expence of 573l. 19s. Among the monuments are thoſe of Dr. Nathaniel Reſbury, a controverſial writer, who died in 1711; and the Hon. William Bromley Cadogan, the late vicar, a popular divine amongſt thoſe of the Calviniſtic perſuaſion.

Reading has given birth to ſeveral eminent perſons; Sir Thomas White, founder of St. John the Baptiſt's College in Oxford, is ſaid by ſome to have been born there, being the ſon of William White, a clothier, who removed thither from Rickmanſworth[y]; to which place Fuller attributes the honour of his birth. Archbiſhop Laud was born at Reading in 1573, being the ſon of William Laud, a clothier, who reſided in Broad-ſtreet. In anſwer to a ſpeech of Lord Say, who had reproached him with the obſcurity of his birth, the archbiſhop ſaid: "It is true I am a man of ordinary, but very honeſt, birth; and the memory of my parents ſavours very well to this day in the town of Reading, where I was born; neither was I ſo meanly born as perhaps my lord would inſinuate, for my father had borne all offices in the town, ſave the mayoralty[z]." John Blagrave, the mathematician, is ſuppoſed to have been a native of Reading; but, perhaps, it is equally probable that he was born at Bulmarſh, the ſeat of his father, in the pariſh of Sunning. Joſeph Blagrave, an aſtrological writer, who does not appear to have been any relation to the mathematician, was born in the pariſh of St. Giles, in 1610. Sir Thomas Holt, Recorder of Reading (miſtaken by ſome writers for Lord Chief Juſtice Holt), Sir John Barnard, the celebrated alderman of London; James Merrick, the tranſlator of the Pſalms; William Baker, a learned printer; Sir Conſtantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of Ireland; and Dr. Phanuel Bacon, author of ſome dramas and ſeveral pieces of humour, were all natives of Reading.

Leland's account of the foundation of Reading ſchool is, that King Henry VII. coming to this town in the time of abbot Thorne, obſerved the decayed houſe of the hoſpital of St. John, and aſked the abbot what old houſe it was; and on being informed, expreſſed his deſire that it ſhould again be converted *in pios uſus*; whereupon the abbot deſired that it might be made a grammar-ſchool, and ſo it was.

[y] See Coates's Hiſtory of Reading, p. 405. [z] Ibid. p. 411.

" One William Dene, (ſays the antiquary,) a riche man and ſervant in th'abbey of Reading, gave 200 marks, in money, towards the advancement of this ſchole, as appeareth by his epitaphie in the Abbey chirch of Reading." It appears by the memorial, preſented againſt abbot Thorne, which is printed in the Appendix to Mr. Coates's Hiſtory of Reading, that the abbot having ſuppreſſed the hoſpital of St. John, " tranſpoſd it for a freſchole, and ſeyd unto his neyghbours, that Maſter Shorborne, dene of Pollys, had graunted him 40l. thereto, and the ſcholemaſter to have 10 marke a yere, and an uſher 5 marke a yere, wheras now there bethe no woman of almys ther kepte, nother yet no ſchole wher thabbot hath taken the profits thereof upon a XXXV. yere, and no good deds done withalle." It muſt be obſerved, that Thorne, who continued abbot 41 years, died in 1486: King Henry VIIth's reign commenced in the month of Auguſt that year; it appears clearly therefore, that the hoſpital had been converted into a grammar-ſchool, by abbot Thorne, in the reign of Edward IV. had been endowed by dean Sherborn, and diſcontinued. It is moſt probable, that it was in the time of the abbot's ſucceſſor of the ſame name, that King Henry VII. revived the ſchool, and endowed it with an annual ſtipend of 10l. It does not appear that the benefaction, either of dean Sherborn, or of William Dene, mentioned by Leland, now form any part of the endowment of the ſchool: it is moſt probable, that dean Sherborn's 40 pounds were appropriated by the abbot to his own uſe. Since the time of Queen Elizabeth's charter, the annual ſum of 10l. paid before by the crown, has been charged on the corporation; this forms the only endowment of the ſchool, excepting 20l. *per annum* given by archbiſhop Laud, as an augmentation of the maſter's ſalary. Two ſcholarſhips at St. John's College, in Oxford, were annexed to Reading ſchool, by Sir Thomas White. There are no ſtatutes for the regulation of the ſchool; but Archbiſhop Laud appointed three viſitors, the vice-chancellor of the Univerſity of Oxford, the preſident of St. John's, and the warden of All-Souls College, and left the intereſt of 24l. for the expences of their reception and entertainment: they viſit every third year. It has been cuſtomary, for nearly a century paſt, for the ſcholars to recite ſpeeches, or perform plays, at the time of this triennial viſitation: the firſt play on record, is that of Cato, in 1731. The preſent maſter, Dr. Valpy, has paid great attention to the theatrical repreſentations, and has altered ſome of Shakeſpere's plays for the uſe of his ſcholars.

Leonard Cox, maſter of this ſchool in 1529, publiſhed a treatiſe on Rhetoric, dedicated to the laſt abbot of Reading, and other works: in 1541, King Henry VIII. granted him his office by patent, with a ſalary of 10l. *per annum*, charged on the rectory of Cholſey. Julinus Palmer, maſter of Reading ſchool, was burnt at the

the ſtake in Queen Mary's reign. Among eminent perſons who received their education in this ſeminary of learning, may be enumerated, archbiſhop Laud, John Blagrave the mathematician, James Merrick the tranſlator of the pſalms, and the Rev. Charles Coates, author of the Hiſtory of Reading.

The ſchool-room for many years occupied the lower part of the great hall of St. John's hoſpital, the upper part being uſed as a town-hall: when the town-hall was rebuilt, the ſchool continued for ſome time in its old ſituation; but having been found ſubject to many inconveniences, the preſent maſter, Dr. Valpy, in the year 1790, built a new ſchool-room, 52 feet in length, at his own expence. The ſchool-maſter's houſe, which was built by Mr. Hiley, a former maſter, for the reception of his boarders, was rented by his ſucceſſor, Mr. Spicer; who, in 1771, ſet on foot a ſubſcription for purchaſing and annexing it to the ſchool, for the maſter's reſidence: liberal contributions were made by the corporation, by St. John's College, and by the neighbouring gentry, particularly ſuch as had been educated in the ſchool; but it was not till 1784 that the intention was carried into effect, and the houſe purchaſed for the ſum of 800l. of Dr. Addington, Mr. Hiley's ſon-in-law, and veſted in the corporation as truſtees. Dr. Valpy has conſiderably enlarged and improved the houſe, particularly by the addition of a ſpacious hall and library.

The blue-coat ſchool, in the pariſh of St. Giles, was founded in 1646, for 20 boys, by Richard Aldworth eſq. who gave, for its endowment, the ſum of 4000l. laid out in lands, now producing an income of nearly 200l. *per annum*; Sir Thomas Rich bart. in the year 1666, gave the ſum of 1000l. laid out alſo in lands, which now yield a rent of 50l. *per annum*, for the education of ſix boys; Mr. John Weſt, in 1720, gave the ſum of 1200l. now producing 49l. *per annum*, to add ſix more boys to the eſtabliſhment; Mr. William Malthus, in 1723, gave a rent-charge of 90l. *per annum*, for the education of ten boys; directing that they ſhould wear green coats; theſe are now incorporated into the ſame ſchool, and clothed uniformly with the others; Mr. John Pottenger gave 15l. *per annum*, to add two more boys to the eſtabliſhment. Mr. John Hall having given, in 1696, the ſum of 25l. 15s. *per annum*, for the education of nine boys, theſe alſo have been incorporated with the blue-coat ſchool, the whole fund of which is now about 400l. *per annum*; this ſchool is for the benefit of the three pariſhes. The preſent ſchool-houſe was built in 1723, by the corporation of Reading, at their own expence: the children belonging to this ſchool are apprenticed out of the funds.

In St. Mary's pariſh is a ſmall ſchool, called the Foundation ſchool, for eight boys and 18 girls, ſupported by the intereſt of 300l. being part of a fund, bequeathed by Mr. Joſeph Neale, for charitable purpoſes.

The girls' ſchool in the ſame pariſh, eſtabliſhed in 1779, for children of the three pariſhes, is ſupported by annual ſubſcriptions, collections at a ſermon, and the intereſt of donations. Mr. Alderman Richards, in his life-time, and by will, gave 2000l.; Awbery Flory eſq. by will, 300l.; the Rev. John Spicer, by will, 200l.; and Mr. Frognall 100l. More than 20 girls are lodged, boarded, and educated, in this ſchool; on leaving it, they are apprenticed as ſervants in reſpectable families, the charity allowing 5l. for their clothing; on producing a certificate of good behaviour, they have a premium of half a guinea, when half their apprenticeſhip is expired, and another half-guinea on the expiration of the whole.

Numerous hoſpitals and alms-houſes have been founded in this town, ſome of which were aboliſhed long before the reformation, others remain to the preſent day.

Aucherius, the ſecond abbot of Reading, who died in 1134, founded an hoſpital for lepers, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. According to the original inſtitution, each perſon was to have half a loaf of bread, and half a gallon of ale, daily; 5d. every month for meat; three ells of white or black ruſſet for their habit, and an ell for hoſe; the chaplain was to have ſix ells, beſides other articles of clothing, or, in lieu, 10s.; the barber was allowed 2d. every month; the laundreſs a barley loaf daily, and 2s. a-year. For incontinence, or ſtriking a brother, the puniſhment was expulſion; for defamation, the offender was to faſt on bread and water, ſitting in the middle of the hall, his portion of meat and drink being diſtributed meanwhile among his brethren: if he continued obſtinate after three repetitions of this puniſhment, he was to be expelled. This hoſpital had been diſcontinued, and the lands belonging to it converted to other purpoſes, before the year 1413, as appears by an inquiſition of that date. The cuſtody of this hoſpital and its lands was granted, the enſuing year, to John Beke.

Hugh, who became abbot of Reading about the year 1180, founded an hoſpital near St. Lawrence's church, for the conſtant ſupport of 13 poor perſons, and for the occaſional relief of 13 poor ſick perſons, particularly lepers belonging to the town; and the entertainment of ſtrangers paſſing through it: the church of St. Lawrence was appropriated for the ſupport of the 13 reſident poor, who, according to the original ſtatutes, were clothed and fed: ſome mills, which had belonged to the abbey of Leominſter, were appropriated for the relief of the ſick, and for the purpoſe of entertaining ſtrangers: the churches of Bucklebury and Thatcham were ſettled alſo on this hoſpital.

The hoſpital of St. John, near St. Lawrence's church, is ſuppoſed to have been founded by one of the abbots of Reading; it was intended for "certain women, ſerving God night and day, and praying for the king's eſtate, and the ſouls of the

founder and benefactors;" they had "a fair chapel for divine ſervice," and received their bread, meat, and drink from the abbey; and every year each ſiſter had a certain ſum of money, and clothing. Theſe ſiſters were ſuch as had been the wives of perſons, who had borne ſome office in the town, and had fallen into poverty, and, in their widowhood, had taken the veil, and made a vow of living unmarried for the remainder of their lives. Mr. Coates ſuppoſes this hoſpital to have been the priory of nuns ſpoken of in the clauſe-roll of King John. It appears that, at a ſubſequent period, if not at the original inſtitution of the hoſpital, there were brethren alſo belonging to it, who had an allowance, as they could agree with the almoner. Each ſiſter had a daily allowance of a farthing for meat, excepting on faſt days; on ſome great feſtivals a penny, and a diſh of meat from the abbey. Their chapel was in the north chancel of St. Lawrence's church, then called St. John's chapel. Abbot Thorne ſuppreſſed this hoſpital, and converted it into a ſchool, as hath been already mentioned: it appears that, before his time, the inſtitution had been much abuſed; and that ſo early as 1438, the almoner took a yearly rent from the women who inhabited the apartments of the hoſpital.

A charter of the year 1230, ſpeaks of the Elemoſinary of the Bleſſed Virgin Mary, at Reading, to which a grant was then made[a]. Perhaps this was the hoſpital of abbot Hugh.

The moſt ancient alms-houſe now exiſting in this town, is that of John Leche, *alias* Alarder, founded in the year 1477, for eight poor perſons; three of St. Mary's, three of St. Giles's, and two of St. Lawrence's pariſh: they receive a weekly allowance of 1s. 8d. each, and have a gown or coat every year: this alms-houſe, which ſtands in the pariſh of St. Mary, was rebuilt by the corporation in 1775. Mr. Barnard Harriſon, in 1617, founded an alms-houſe for eight poor women of St. Giles's pariſh, who receive 6s. 3d. per quarter each, from the benefaction of their founder: ſome addition to their allowance was made about the ſame time by other perſons: this alms-houſe has been lately rebuilt. Griffin Jenkins, in 1624, gave five houſes to be inhabited, rent free, by poor perſons of the pariſhes of St. Mary and St. Lawrence, but left no endowment. Mr. William Kendrick, in 1634, founded an alms-houſe for four poor men of the pariſhes of St. Lawrence and St. Giles, and for one woman: the men to receive 1s. 6d. a week, the woman 1s. beſides 5s. a quarter, as laundreſs to the men: the men to have a coat, and the woman a gown, once in three years. Sir Thomas Vachell, the ſame year, founded an alms-houſe for ſix aged and unmarried men, two of each pariſh, and endowed it with 40l. *per annum*. Mr. Richard Jeys, in 1647, founded an alms-houſe in St. Mary's pariſh, for four poor widows, and endowed it with lands, now let at 5l.

[a] Cl. Rot. 15 Hen. III.

*per*

*per annum.* Mr. John Webb, in 1653, founded an alms-houſe for four poor widows of the pariſh of St. Lawrence, who receive 1s. a-week each: Mr. John Hall, in 1696, founded an alms-houſe for five poor ſingle women, two of St. Giles's pariſh, two of St. Lawrence's, and one of St. Mary's, and endowed it with 25l. *per annum*, rent-charge, allotting 1s. 6d. to each weekly, 12s. *per annum* for firing, and 10s. for clothes.

Archbiſhop Laud gave, by will, the ſum of 100l. *per annum* to this his native town, to be appropriated, two ſucceſſive years, to the apprenticing ten poor boys; and every third year to be given, as marriage portions, to five poor maids, born in Reading, who ſhall have lived in ſervice three years in the ſame place: this benefaction is in the diſpoſal of the corporation. Mr. John Blagrave gave a marriage portion of 20 nobles (6l. 13s. 4d.) to be given every year to a poor maid, who ſhall have lived five years in ſervice, in Reading: this portion is drawn for by lot on Good-Friday, by three claimants, one out of each pariſh; the unſucceſsful candidates are entitled to try their fortune again the next year, but no one to have more than three chances: the corporation ſelect the candidates. The Rev. William Boudry and John Richards eſq. gave by deed, in 1755, the yearly ſum of 7l. 14s. 6d. to one of three poor maids, qualified as above, to be drawn for by lot, on the Monday after St. Bartholomew's day; the truſt of this charity is veſted in the corporation. Mr. Kendrick, the great benefactor to the town, gave the ſum of 100l. to be diſpoſed of in marriage portions, of 40s. each, to maid ſervants; it is probable that the principal was ſo applied after his deceaſe.

Almoſt the whole of Mr. Kendrick's munificent bequeſts, amounting to no leſs a ſum than 7500l. appear to have been ſunk, without accompliſhing the benevolent purpoſes of the donor, who had appropriated them to the relief of the poor, and the ſupport of the woollen manufacture in this town, which has been long ago wholly removed. A building, now called the Oracle, was erected about the year 1628, at the expence of nearly 2000l. being part of the ſum left by Mr. Kendrick, who had directed that a ſtrong and commodious houſe ſhould be built, in which the poor might be employed in the woollen manufacture; in addition to this, a conſiderable expence was incurred in fitting it up, and providing materials. The manufacture was, for ſome time, carried on with ſucceſs; but was interrupted by the civil war, and the houſe then converted into a garriſon. Great loſſes were incurred about the cloſe of the 17th century; and it is underſtood, that there is no fund now remaining out of Mr. Kendrick's large donations excepting the ſum of 500l. which he expreſsly appointed to be lent, without intereſt, to clothiers; and which, ſince the total removal of the clothing manufacture has been lent to induſtrious young tradeſmen of other deſcriptions. The building, called the Oracle, has been uſed for various manu-

factures; it being granted by the corporation to any reſpectable manufacturer, who will employ the poor of the town. In the year 1749, Mr. John Watts publiſhed a pamphlet, entitled, "the Black Scene Opened," complaining of the various abuſes then exiſting, in the management of Mr. Kendrick's charities. Various parts of the Oracle were rebuilt in 1727 and 1767; the original portico remains.

Sir Thomas White left the ſum of 100l. to be lent, without intereſt, in ſums of 25l. each, to four young men in the clothing trade.

Various benefactions have been given to the poor of this town, in money, bread, and clothing; among others is one of 20s. *per annum* each, to five poor butchers, by Mr. William Jones, in 1669, and another of 5l. *per annum* each, to eight poor blind perſons of Reading and Newbury.

A diſpenſary for relieving the ſick poor, with advice and medicines, was eſtabliſhed at Reading in 1802; it is ſupported by voluntary contributions: Lord Braybrooke is preſident; the two members for the town, and the mayor for the time being, vice-preſidents.

REMENHAM, in the hundred of Barnerſh, lies in the north-eaſt corner of the county, about a mile and a half from Henley-upon-Thames. The manor belonged, in the reign of Henry VI. to the Montforts[b]; Lord Lovelace died ſeiſed of it in 1634[c]; from his family it paſſed, by purchaſe, to the Whitlocks: it was afterwards Lord Archibald Hamilton's, and is now the property of Strickland Freeman eſq. of Fawley, whoſe uncle purchaſed it about the year 1760, of Dr. Cooper. The principal and ſcholars of Jeſus College, in Oxford, are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1799, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes.

In this pariſh is Park-place, the well-known ſeat of the late Field-Marſhal Conway, now belonging to the Earl of Malmſbury. It had been the property and reſidence of Lord Archibald Hamilton, who was lord of the manor; and afterwards, for a ſhort time, of his Royal Highneſs, Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of his preſent Majeſty. The houſe was conſiderably enlarged by Marſhal Conway, and the grounds, which poſſeſs natural advantages that few places can boaſt, were laid out by him with much taſte, and with great attention to the character of the ſurrounding ſcenery. One of the moſt ſtriking ſituations in the park is a ſecluded valley, planted with fine groups of trees: at the upper end is a Grecian ruin, very happily deſigned and executed; and at the bottom a ruſtic arch, over which paſſes the road from Henley to Wargrave. It was built of ſtones brought from the

[b] Eſch. 31 Hen. VI. [c] Eſch. Car. I.

ruins

ruins of Reading abbey: underneath is ſeen the river. On the hill, a little beyond the pleaſure grounds, is placed a ſmall Druidical temple, found near the town of St. Helier, in the iſland of Jerſey, in the year 1785, preſented by the inhabitants to Marſhal Conway, then their governor, and by him removed to its preſent ſituation. Lord Malmſbury purchaſed Park-place of the late Counteſs Dowager of Ayleſbury, Marſhal Conway's widow. His Lordſhip has conſiderably improved the houſe, which contains a noble library, partly inherited from his father, James Harris eſq. the celebrated philologiſt, and partly purchaſed by himſelf on the continent, during his foreign embaſſies. In one of the rooms is a good portrait of Brian Duppa, biſhop of Wincheſter. Marſhal Conway erected ſome works for the diſtilling of lavender, near the foot of Henley-hill, and an elegant cottage, in a ſituation remarkably pictureſque, now in the occupation of Mr. Culverden: the lavender plantations, which are extenſive, are kept up, and the diſtillery continued.

RUSCOMB, in the hundred and within the manor of Sunning, lies about ſix miles eaſt of Reading. The late Chief Juſtice Eyre, who had a ſeat at Ruſcomb, now the property of his widow, and in the occupation of the Dowager Lady Howard, of Walden, was leſſee of the manerial rights of this pariſh, under Mr. Palmer, lord of the manor of Sunning. The manor and lands of Ruſcomb-Northbury were held under the prebendary of Combe and Harnham, in the church of Saliſbury, by the family of Knight. The late William Walter Knight eſq. aſſigned the leaſe to Robert Palmer eſq. who, in 1787, conveyed it to Sir James Eyre, then chief baron of the exchequer.

In the pariſh church are memorials of the family of Knight, and of the Aldworths, of Stanlake, in this pariſh, which, in 1746, was occupied by the Earl of Peterborough[*], and is now the property and ſeat of Sir Nathaniel Duckenfield bart. The late Mr. Aldworth took the name of Neville, in conſequence of an alliance with that family: his ſon is now Lord Braybrooke. Sir James Eyre knt. late lord chief juſtice of the common pleas, lies buried in the chancel. The great tithes of this pariſh are held on leaſe, by Richard Palmer eſq. of Sunning, under the dean of Saliſbury: the dean is patron of the benefice, which is a perpetual curacy, with a ſtipend of 30l. *per annum*, within his own peculiar juriſdiction.

SANDHURST, in the hundred of Sunning, lies nearly five miles to the ſouth-eaſt of Wokingham. The manor belongs to Richard Heavyſide eſq. having been acquired, by purchaſe, from General Williamſon, whoſe family had poſſeſſed it many years. The great tithes are impropriated to the dean of Saliſbury. The

[*] Simpſon's Engliſh Traveller, vol. I. p. 48.

dean

dean is patron of the parochial chapel, which is ſubject to Sunning, and within his own peculiar juriſdiction. An extenſive building is about to be erected in this pariſh, for the purpoſe of a military college, from the deſigns of James Wyatt eſq.

SANDLEFORD, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies on the borders of Hampſhire, two miles ſouth of Newbury. Geffrey, Earl of Perch, and Maud, his wife, about the year 1200[e], founded a ſmall priory at this place for Auſtin canons, dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt. A diſpute having ariſen, in the reign of Edward IV. between the prior and the biſhop of Saliſbury, in conſequence of which the monaſtery was wholly forſaken by its inhabitants; the king, at the inſtance of the biſhop of Saliſbury, gave it to the dean and chapter of Windſor. In the reign of James I. the rector of Newbury, and the leſſee of Sandleford, having had a diſpute about tithes, there was an award of Chancery, by which Sandleford, conſiſting only of the Priory-houſe, was declared to be a ſeparate and diſtinct pariſh. The owner of Sandleford was always to have a pew in Newbury church, and to pay 8l. *per annum* to the rector, in lieu of all demands for tithes[f]. In conſequence of this award, the old chapel, in which was the monument of a cruſader, probably the founder, was diſuſed, and has ſince been deſtroyed. Sandleford-houſe and manor, in the early part of the laſt century, belonged to the Pitts, of Stratfield-Say, by whom the leaſe was ſold, in 1717, to William Cradock eſq. After an intermediate alienation, it was purchaſed, in 1730, by Edward Montagu eſq. of Denton-hall, in Northumberland, grandſon of the firſt Earl of Sandwich. Sandleford-houſe was, for many years, the ſeat of his widow, the late celebrated Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu: it was rebuilt for this lady, principally in the Gothic ſtyle, by Mr. Wyatt. The leaſe is now the property of her nephew, Matthew Montagu eſq. who is proprietor alſo of the adjoining manor of Peckmore.

SATWELL, or SOTWELL, lying about a mile and a half to the weſt of Wallingford, has a parochial chapel, dependant on the church of St. Leonard, in that town. The manor, which anciently belonged to the family of Stonor[g], was, of late years, in the Stonhouſes, of whom it was purchaſed by the father of Mr. Hazell, the preſent proprietor.

SHALBOURN, SHALDEBORNE, or SHAWBORN, in the hundred of Faircroſs, about four miles ſouth of Hungerford, lies at the ſouth-weſt corner of the county, on the borders of Hampſhire and Wiltſhire: part of the pariſh and village are in Wilts. The manor paſſed, in the 13th century, by marriage, from the Greys to

[e] It was before the year 1205. [f] Mr. Montagu's Papers. [g] Eſch. Edw. III.

the baronial family of Tatſhall[h]; and from the Tatſhalls, by female heirs, to the Cromwells. Sir William Cromwell died ſeiſed of it in 1429[i]. At a later period we have an account of two manors in this pariſh, called Eaſt-Court and Weſt-Court: the latter was, in 1473, in the family of Bury[k]. They are now both the property of the Earl of Ayleſbury, to whom they deſcended from the protector Somerſet, in conſequence of the marriage of Thomas, Earl of Ayleſbury, with the only daughter of Henry Seymour, ſon of William, Duke of Somerſet, who was reſtored to his honours in 1640. Eaſt-Court was acquired by the Duke of Somerſet, in exchange for other lands, of Sir Thomas Cheyne[l].

The manor of Oxenwood, in this pariſh, is the property of Thomas Rendall eſq.

In the pariſh church is the monument of Francis Choke, who died in 1561; it has his effigies in armour, with a beard of remarkable length: there are ſome memorials alſo of the families of Cliffe and Mayott.

In the Wiltſhire part of the village is an ancient chapel, belonging to Mr. Barns, to which is annexed a portion of tithes, of about 300 acres. The rectory of Shalbourn, which had before belonged to the priory of Sherbourn, conſtituted a part of the original endowment of the collegiate chapel of Windſor; the dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage. The Earl of Ayleſbury has lately purchaſed the leaſe of the impropriate parſonage of Mr. Rendall: Shalbourn is ſituated within the deanery of Newbury, but is in the peculiar juriſdiction of the dean of Saliſbury; the dean and chapter of Windſor have the archidiaconal juriſdiction. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1800, under which a diviſion was made between the counties of Berks and Wilts: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

SHAW, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about a mile to the north-eaſt of Newbury. The manor belonged, in the 13th century, to the family of Columbers, or De Columbariis[m], from whom it paſſed to the Baſſets, of Drayton[n]. No farther particulars can be traced relating to it till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when it was purchaſed by Mr. Dolman, an opulent clothier of Newbury, who ſeems to have poſſeſſed almoſt an equal degree of conſequence with the Winchcombes, of that town. In the year 1581, he completed a ſtately brick manſion, on the ſite of this manor, now called Shaw-place, which is ſaid to have excited, in no ſmall degree, the envy of his neighbours; a circumſtance, which is ſuppoſed to be alluded to in the following inſcription, ſtill to be ſeen over the portico; "EDENTULUS VES-

[h] Cl. 31 Hen. III. [i] Eſch. Hen. VI. [k] Eſch. Edw. IV. [l] Lord Ayleſbury's Papers.
[m] Eſch. Edw. I.—Edw. III. [n] Eſch. Edw. III.

CENTIUM

CENTIUM DENTIBUS INVIDET ET OCULOS CAPREARUM TALPA CONTEMNIT." Mr. Dolman was ſheriff for the county in 1588.

In the ſecond battle of Newbury, ſome of the king's troops were poſted in this houſe, under the command of Lieut. Col. Page, who, being attacked whilſt there by a large body of foot, repulſed them with great loſs. A baſket-full of cannon-balls, picked up at various times about the gardens and grounds, are to be ſeen at Shaw-place: they are ſuppoſed to have been fired at it during the above mentioned attack; but it is more probable that they were ſpent balls, fired at the ſiege of the neighbouring caſtle of Donnington, or from the principal ſcene of action during one of the battles of Newbury; for it does not appear, that any cannon were made uſe of in the attack above mentioned, nor does the houſe exhibit the appearance of having ſuſtained any injury. It has been ſaid, that it was Sir George Liſle, who defended Mr. Dolman's houſe; but Lord Clarendon, who gives a very circumſtantial account of the action, tells us, that Sir George Liſle and Sir Jacob Aſtley had the command in that *quarter;* and that it was Colonel Page who was ſtationed in the houſe: a party of the king's foot were poſted in Mr. Dolman's garden.

The manor of Shaw continued in the Dolman family till about the year 1727, when it was ſold to James, Duke of Chandos. It was purchaſed of the duke's repreſentatives in 1749, by Joſeph Andrews eſq. his ſon, the late Sir Joſeph Andrews, was created a baronet in 1766, with remainder to the iſſue of his brother, James Petit Andrews eſq. ſince deceaſed, whoſe eldeſt and only ſurviving ſon, now Sir Joſeph Andrews bart. ſucceeded to the title and eſtate, on the death of his uncle, which happened at Shaw-place, Dec. 29, 1800. The late Sir Joſeph Andrews was diſtinguiſhed for his active benevolence, as the zealous promoter of every inſtitution which had, for its object, either public utility, or the relief of individual diſtreſs. Shaw-place is ſaid to have been honoured, at various times, with royal viſits, in the time of the Dolmans [o].

The abbot and convent of Waverly had a conſiderable eſtate in this pariſh [p].

In the pariſh church are memorials of Sir Thomas Dolman, the elder, and Sir Thomas Dolman, the younger, who died in 1697 and 1711; Lydia Catherine, ducheſs dowager of Chandos, who died in 1750; and Admiral Thorpe Fowke. Sir Joſeph Andrews is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

In this pariſh, (not in Spene, as erroneouſly ſtated by the editor of Aſhmole's Collections, and others,) lie the hamlet and caſtle of *Donnington*, or Dunnington. The manor of Donnington was in the family of Abberbury, as early as the year 1292 [q]. The caſtle is ſaid to have been built by Sir Richard Abberbury, who had been guardian to King Richard II. in his minority, and was expelled from court

[o] Magna Britannia. [p] Taxation of Pope Nicholas. [q] Eſch. 20 Edw. I.

by the diſcontented lords in 1388, for his adherence to that monarch [r]. When Sir Richard Abberbury died, and when or how this caſtle and manor ceaſed to be his property, cannot be aſcertained, as the inquiſition taken after his death is not to be found at the Tower; it ſeems that he was living in 1397: his ſon, who was that year ſheriff for Berks and Oxfordſhire, being deſcribed as Sir Richard Abberbury the younger. It has been ſaid that Geffrey Chaucer, the father of Engliſh poetry, became poſſeſſed of Donnington-Caſtle, about this time, and that he retired thither in 1398, two years before his death. This fact appears very doubtful; no connection is to be diſcovered between the families of Abberbury and Chaucer, nor was the poet, towards the cloſe of his life, in ſuch affluent circumſtances as to be able to make any conſiderable purchaſe. The moſt probable conjecture perhaps is, that his ſon Thomas Chaucer, who married a rich heireſs, daughter of Sir John de Burgherſt, purchaſed Donnington of the Abberburys, in or about 1398. Thomas Chaucer was ſheriff of Berks and Oxfordſhire, in 1399; he was then deſcribed as of Ewelme, which he poſſeſſed in right of his wife, as part of the inheritance of the Burgherſts: it is probable that he might have given Donnington to his father for life, and that he afterwards ſettled it on his daughter and heir Alice, and her firſt huſband, Sir John Phelip, who died, ſeiſed of the manor and caſtle in her right, in 1415 [s]. William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, her laſt huſband, for ſhe was thrice married [t], became afterwards poſſeſſed of it, made it his occaſional reſidence, and conſiderably enlarged the buildings of the caſtle. Upon the attainder of this nobleman, or one of his grandſons, Donnington became veſted in the crown, and was granted to Charles Brandon, on whom King Henry VIII. beſtowed the honours of this unfortunate family. Camden, in whoſe time the caſtle was entire, deſcribes it as an elegant but ſmall ſtructure, on the top of a woody hill, commanding a pleaſant proſpect, and lighted by windows on every ſide. About this time it appears to have belonged to Charles, Earl of Nottingham, the Lord Admiral; in the year 1570, he certainly was poſſeſſed of it, and in that year refounded the hoſpital at Donnington. In 1623, Thomas Chamberleyne eſq. was deſcribed of Donnington Caſtle [u].

In 1643, being then the property of the Packer family, it was garriſoned for the king, being eſteemed an important poſt, as commanding the road from Oxford to Newbury; and the great road from London to Bath, and other parts of the weſt of England. The command of the garriſon was given to Captain John Boys, who, by the bravery with which he defended it, during a long ſiege, ſhewed himſelf well worthy of the truſt. It was firſt attacked by the parliamentary army,

[r] Holinſhed. [s] Eſch. 3 Hen. V. [t] Her ſecond huſband was the brave Earl of Saliſbury, who fell at the ſiege of Orleans. [u] Berkſhire Pedigrees. Perhaps he was only a tenant.

conſiſting of three thouſand horſe and foot, under the command of Major-General Middleton. In return to the general's ſummons, the governor ſent the following ſpirited reply. "Sir, I am entruſted by his Majeſty's expreſs command, and have not learned yet to obey any other than my ſovereign; to ſpare blood, do as you pleaſe, but myſelf, and thoſe that are with me, are fully reſolved freely to venture ours, in maintaining what we are here entruſted with, which is the anſwer of

JOHN BOYS[x]."

The general then attempted to take the caſtle by aſſault, but was repulſed with conſiderable loſs. Not long afterwards, on the 29th of September 1644, Colonel Horton began a blockade, having raiſed a battery at the foot of the hill near Newbury, from which he plied the caſtle ſo inceſſantly during the ſpace of 12 days, that he reduced it to a heap of ruins, having beat down three of the towers and a part of the wall; nearly one thouſand great ſhot are ſaid to have been expended, during this time[y]. Col. Horton having received reinforcements, ſent a ſummons to the governor, who refuſed to liſten to any terms; ſoon afterwards, the Earl of Mancheſter came to the ſiege with his army, but their united attempts proved fruitleſs; and after two or three days more of ineffectual battering, during which the beſieged made a very ſucceſsful ſally, the whole army roſe up from before the walls, and marched in different directions[z]. When the king came to Newbury, he knighted the governor for his good ſervices.

During the ſecond battle of Newbury, Sir John Boys ſecured the king's artillery, under the caſtle walls. After the battle, the king being gone with his army to Oxford, the Earl of Eſſex, with his whole force, beſieged Donnington Caſtle, with no better ſucceſs than others had done: he had given over the attempt before the king returned thither, from Oxford, which he did purpoſely for its relief, on the 4th of November 1644: it was then re-victualled without oppoſition, and the king ſlept that night in the caſtle, with his army around him[a]. The only part of the caſtle that now remains, is a gateway, which has two towers; it is probable, that the walls received ſo much injury, that they were incapable of repair. The ſite paſſed by a female heir from the Packers, to the Hartleys, and is now the property of Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley, a minor. The caſtle-houſe, a manſion not far from the caſtle, was for ſome time occupied by the Rev. Mr. O'Beirne, now biſhop of Meath; it is at preſent in the occupation of Col. Stead, who has reſided there ſeveral years.

[x] Heath's Chronicle, p. 62. [y] Clarendon and Heath. [z] Heath.

[a] Clarendon.—Sir Edward Walker ſays, that King Charles ſlept in Donnington Caſtle on the 9th of November.—See his Hiſtorical Diſcourſes.

The

The manor of Donnington is now held under the king, by William Lowndes eſq. as parcel of the honor of Wallingford.

A modern houſe, under the hill, was built by the late James Petit Andrews eſq. author of "the Hiſtory of Great Britain, connected with the Chronology of Europe," and was for a time his ſeat. He afterwards ſold it to the late William Brummell eſq.

The ſmall priory of Trinitarians, and the hoſpital, or God's houſe, ſpoken of by biſhop Tanner, as both founded by Sir Richard Abberbury, appear to have been one and the ſame foundation. The biſhop ſpeaks of the priory, as having been founded by Sir Richard Abberbury, in 1392, (16 Ric. II.) but it is obſerved in a note, that at its ſuppreſſion in 1534, the principal, in the deed of ſurrender, is not called *prior*, but *miniſter*: the revenues of the houſe were then valued at 19l. 3s. 10d. The charter of 16 Richard II. which indeed is the only record of a religious houſe, founded by Sir Richard Abberbury, informs us, that being in his old age, he then eſtabliſhed at Donnington a houſe of God, for a *miniſter*, and certain poor perſons, to pray for the king's ſoul, the founder's ſoul, &c. and endowed it with two acres of land, in Donnington, and the manor of Yeſtely, or Iſley, near Oxford. After the diſſolution, the eſtates of this hoſpital continued in the crown, till about the year 1570, when, upon the petition of Charles Earl of Nottingham, the Lord Admiral, they were reſtored to the hoſpital, which from that time was called, "the hoſpital of Queen Elizabeth, at Donnington, in time paſt begun to be founded by Sir Richard Abberbury knt. and by Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, perfected and conſummated." It is probable that the hoſpital was rebuilt, at the earl's expence; by the ſtatutes[b] then ordained, the patronage of the hoſpital was to be veſted in the Lord Admiral, his heirs and aſſigns: the foundation was to conſiſt of a maſter and twelve poor brethren; the maſter was to have three quarters and four buſhels of wheat, annually, and 4d. a-day in money; the poor men, one quarter and ſeven buſhels yearly, and 2d. a-day in money; the allowance to be increaſed according to the revenues of the hoſpital: the profits of the eſtate are now divided into fourteen equal ſhares, of which the maſter receives two. The patronage is veſted in Henry Winchcombe Howard Hartley, a minor, ſon of the late Winchcombe Henry Hartley eſq. as deſcended by female heirs from the Packers, who ſeem to have purchaſed Donnington-Caſtle, and with it the patronage of the hoſpital of the ſecond Earl of Nottingham. The ſtatutes of the Lord Admiral give no directions as to the qualifications of the alms-men, who are to be "ſuch as the earl, his heirs or aſſigns, in his or their diſcretion ſhall think meet." The

[b] A Copy of the Earl of Nottingham's Statutes for the hoſpital at Donnington, may be ſeen in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

ordinances of the original founder direct, that "as ſoon as any man has paſſed out of this houſe, as by way of death, either put out by treſpaſs making, another ſhall be choſen by his heirs, of his poor tenants, either of his ſervants, or ſome poor man to whom he liketh his alms to give [c]."

Not far from this hoſpital is a houſe called the priory, the ſeat of Frederick Cowſlade eſq. It has been already obſerved, that there is no record of any religious houſe at this place, excepting the hoſpital of Donnington, which has been ſome times improperly called a priory. It would not have been an improbable conjecture, that Mr. Cowſlade's was the ſite of the ancient hoſpital; but there are documents which prove that the ſite was not altered, when it was rebuilt in 1570.

GREAT, or WEST-SHEFFORD, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies on the road from Newbury to Lambourn, being nine miles from Newbury, four from Lambourn, five from Hungerford, and eight from Wantage. One of the Sheffords, but it is uncertain which, was in the Dover family in the reign of Henry II. was granted by King Henry III. to Payne Paverell, and was afterwards in the family of Bokeſworth [d]; the other was in the family of *de Ripariis*, or Rivers [e]. At a later period the manor of Great-Shefford belonged for a conſiderable time to a branch of the Brydges family [f]; Eleanor, daughter of Anthony Brydges eſq. the laſt heir male of this branch, who died in 1613, brought it in marriage to George Browne eſq. [g] whoſe grandſon, Sir George Browne bart. ſold it, in 1716, to Sir William Trumbull [h], and it is now the property of his repreſentative, the marchioneſs of Downſhire.

The manor, or manor farm of Whatcomb, in this pariſh, now the property of John Hyde eſq. was anciently in the family of Coleſhill [i], and afterwards in that of Haute [k].

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the Brownes, ſome time lords of the manor, a younger branch of the family of Browne Viſcount Montagu. Sir George Browne, who died in 1678, was knight of the Bath, his younger brother John, was created a baronet in 1665.

The principal and ſcholars of Brazen-Noſe College, in Oxford, are patrons of the rectory which is in the deanery of Newbury. The college bought the advowſon in 1736, of Mr. Linton, who had purchaſed it in 1708, of Sir George Browne.

[c] Communicated by the Rev. Mr. Coxe, one of the guardians of Mr. Hartley, patron of the hoſpital. [d] See a recital in Cart. 6 Edw. III. No. 5. when it was confirmed to Henry de Bokeſworth. [e] Eſch. 6 Edw. I. [f] See Collins's Peerage. [g] Anſwers to Mr. Rowe Mores's Queries, publiſhed in Bib. Top. Brit. [h] Ibid. [i] Eſch. Edw. III. [k] Bundel. Placit. &c. in Turr. Lond. Co. Berks. No. 38.

Sir

Sir Edward Walker, in his Hiſtorical Diſcourſes [l], informs us that King Charles was quartered at Shefford on the 19th of November, 1644.

LITTLE-SHEFFORD or EAST-SHEFFORD, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies on the road from Newbury to Lambourn, being eight miles from the former place and five from the latter; the manor was, at an early period, in the family of Fettiplace. Thomas Fettiplace, of Eaſt-Shefford, married Beatrice, an illegitimate daughter of John, King of Portugal; who had been ſucceſſively the widow of Thomas Earl of Arundel, Gilbert Lord Talbot [m], and John Earl of Huntingdon [n]. The grandſon of this Thomas Fettiplace married the heireſs of Beſils, and rebuilt the manor-houſe at Eaſt-Shefford, the ruins of which yet remain, and exhibit the arms of Beſils on the ſtone-work of ſome of the windows. Sir Richard Elyot, appointed one of the juſtices of the King's Bench in 1515, had a temporary intereſt in this manor by marrying the relict of one of the Fettiplaces [o]. Edmund Fettiplace, grandſon of Thomas above-mentioned, quitted Shefford for Beſils-Legh. This manor, having been afterwards purchaſed by the Winchcombes [p], deſcended with their other eſtates to the late Winchcombe Henry Hartley eſq. and is now the property of his ſon Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley, a minor.

In the pariſh church is a handſome monument, with figures in alabaſter, of a man in armour, and a female, without any inſcription or arms, and the monument of John Fettiplace, who died in 1524; in the windows are the arms of Fettiplace quartering Beſils, and ſome mutilated figures of Saints. Mr. Hartley is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

The ſchool founded by Lady Frances Winchcombe, at Thatcham, was intended for the education of children of that pariſh, Bucklebury, and Eaſt-Shefford; but on account of the diſtance (being ſeven miles), the benefaction has been of very little benefit to Eaſt-Shefford.

SHILLINGFORD, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies about two miles and a half to the ſouth-eaſt of Faringdon. The manor, which before the Reformation belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was afterwards in the Untons [q] and Packers; it was purchaſed of the latter in 1738 by Sarah Ducheſs of Marlborough, and is now the property of William Yarnton Mills eſq. who bought it of Earl Spencer in 1796.

The manor-houſe, an ancient ſtone building, called, it does not appear for what reaſon, Shillingford caſtle, was many years ago the ſeat of the Packers. It has been for a conſiderable time uninhabited.

[l] Page 120. [m] Berkſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum. [n] Dugdale. [o] See his will.
[p] Henry Winchcombe died ſeiſed of it, 18 Car. 1. [q] Eſch. 40 Eliz.

In

In the pariſh church is an ancient monument of John de Blewbury, a prieſt, who died in 1372; that of Sir Edward Hannes, phyſician to Queen Anne, with his buſt; and that of the late Lord Aſhbrook, who died at Shillingford in 1780, being tenant of the manor-houſe: there are memorials alſo for Edward Neville eſq. ſon of Sir Henry, 1632; and for ſome of the Packer family. Mr. Mills is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

SHILTON lies partly in an inſulated diſtrict of Berkſhire, ſurrounded by Oxfordſhire, two miles and a half from Burford, and four from Bampton. The church and part of the parſonage houſe are in Oxfordſhire, the greater part of the pariſh in Berkſhire. The manor belonged to the prior and convent of Beaulieu, to whom it was given by King John, together with the church, in 1205: ſince the Reformation it has been in the families of Unton[q], Peniſton[r], Rainton[s], Bray[t], and Fettiplace; it is now the property of Charles Fettiplace eſq. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1794, when allotments of land were made to the lay rector, to the vicar, and other tithe owners.

SHINFIELD, in the hundred of Charlton, lies four miles to the ſouth-eaſt of Reading: part of this pariſh is in an inſulated diſtrict of Wiltſhire. The manor, which at an early period had belonged to the St. Johns[u], was, about the year 1600, in the family of Marten, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the Wollaſcots[x]. The Earl of Fingal, who married the heireſs of the Wollaſcots, ſold it to Alexander Cobham eſq. the preſent proprietor. Mr. Cobham has another ſmall manor in the pariſh, which belonged to the family of Hyde, under a grant of King James I.

The manor of Hartley-Dummer in this pariſh, lying in the county of Wilts, is the property of John Dearſley eſq.

The manor of Beams, in the ſame county, now the property of Henry Lannoy Hunter eſq. lying partly in this pariſh and partly in Swallowfield, is the ſame with Beaumys (deſcribed in old records[y] as being in the county of Wilts, near Reading,) which belonged anciently to the De la Beches. Nicholas Lord de la Beche had the king's licence to fortify his manor houſe at Beaumys, in 1338[z]. In 1352, a moſt outrageous aſſault was committed at this caſtle by John de Dalton, who, coming with an armed force, killed Michael le Poynings, uncle to Lord Poynings, Thomas le Clerk, and others, frightened Roger Hunt, the chaplain, to death, carried away

[q] Eſch. Eliz. [r] Ibid. [s] Monumental Inſcriptions. [t] Ibid. [u] Nomina Villarum, No. 6281, Harl. MSS. [x] See Eſch. 2 Jac. [y] See on Pat. 26 Edw. III. pt. 1. a pardon to Hugh Fazakerly. [z] Pat. 12 Edw. III.

goods and chattels to the amount of 1000l. and took ſeveral priſoners; among whom was Margaret Lady De la Beche, owner of the caſtle (then the wife of Sir Thomas Arderne [a]). In the reign of Edward IV. the manor of Beaumys was in the family of Stonor [b]. Mr. Hunter's houſe is in the pariſh of Shinfield; not far from it, on a ſmall elevation in the adjoining pariſh of Swallowfield, is an ancient moat, which, it is probable, was the ſite of Beaumys Caſtle. Mr. Hunter has another houſe at a little diſtance, in the neighbouring pariſh of Stratfield-Say (now in the occupation of Mr. Muſgrave) called Beech-hill, probably from the De la Beches. Mr. Hunter has alſo the manors of Great and Little Shipbridge, partly in this pariſh and partly in Swallowfield.

The manor of Hartley-Court, which was, for many years, in the family of Beke [c], is now the property of John Deane eſq.; the Bekes held it under the family of Vachell: Thomas Vachell eſq. died ſeiſed of the manor of *Hertley*, in 1553 [d]. The Norris family had, for many years, a manor in Shinfield.

In the church are memorials for the family of Beke, of Hartley-Court. The dean and chapter of Hereford are impropriators of the great tithes, and patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading: Mr. Cobham is leſſee.

Richard Pigot founded a ſchool at Shinfield, in 1707, and endowed it with 42l. *per annum*, for the education of 20 poor children.

SHOTTESBROKE, in the hundred of Barnerſh, lies about four miles to the ſouth-weſt of Maidenhead, and nearly nine miles weſt of Windſor. At this place was a ſmall college, dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, for a warden and five prieſts, founded in 1337, by Sir William Truſſell, of Cubbleſdon, in Staffordſhire [e], and endowed with the church of Shotteſbroke, and a rent charge of 40s. *per annum*, on the manor, of which he was then lord. Soon after its foundation, the college was almoſt deſtroyed by fire; in conſequence of which misfortune, the church of Baſilden, and other lands, were given for its ſupport [f]. The revenues of this college, which was ſuppreſſed in the firſt year of King Edward VI. were then eſtimated at 33l. 18s. 8d. clear yearly value [g]. Its ſite is ſuppoſed to have been to the north of the pariſh church, where is an old houſe, formerly the reſidence of the learned Mr. Dodwell, now inhabited by one of Mr. Vanſittart's ſervants. The lands belonging to the college were granted to the family of Weldon [h].

[a] See Pat. 26 Edw. III. Kennet's Paroch. Antiq. and Rolls of Parliament. [b] Cl. Rot. 22 Edw. IV.
[c] Eſch. Hen. VIII. and Monumental Inſcriptions. [d] Eſch. 1 Mary. [e] Pat. 11 Edw. III.
[f] See Hearne's Account of Shotteſbroke, annexed to Leland's Itinerary, vol. V.
[g] Tanner. [h] Ibid.

The

The manor of Shotteſbroke belonged, at an early period, to a family, who took their name from the village: about the year 1300 it paſſed, by a female heir, to the ancient family of Vis de Lou[i], ſoon afterwards extinct. In 1340, Sir William Truſſell, who had then been ſome time in poſſeſſion of the manor, obtained for himſelf, and his ſucceſſors, a charter of exemption from expeditation[k] of his dogs[l]. The manor continued a conſiderable time in the Truſſell family. Sir William Truſſell, who died in 1481, left a ſon, Edward[m]; the ſame, it is ſuppoſed, who became afterwards a knight-banneret, and whoſe daughter and heir married John Vere, Earl of Oxford[n]. It is probable, that this manor was ſold by Edward Vere, Earl of Oxford (who, about that time, diſſipated the greater part of his fortune) to the family of Powle, who poſſeſſed it in the reign of Queen Elizabeth[o]: from them it paſſed to the Cherrys. Shotteſbroke is now the property and ſeat of Arthur Vanſittart eſq. M. P.; his anceſtor purchaſed it of the repreſentatives of Francis Cherry eſq. who died in 1713.

This manor was anciently held by a ſingular ſpecies of grand ſerjeanty; namely, by the ſervice of providing charcoal to make the crown, and other regalia, for the king's coronation, the ſum of 60 ſhillings and 10d. being allowed for it by the king[p]. It may be obſerved, as a circumſtance which throws ſome light on the origin of this ſingular tenure, that the manor of Shotteſbroke, then called Soteſbrok, belonged, in the time of William Rufus, to Alward, the goldſmith, whoſe father held it under King Edward the Confeſſor.

The pariſh church, a handſome Gothic ſtructure, was built in the form of a croſs, in alluſion, as has been ſuppoſed, to the arms of the founder, Sir William Truſſell, which are a croſs flory. The monuments of the founder, and his lady, are in the north tranſept; plain altar tombs, under groined arches, richly ornamented with Gothic tracery. The founder is ſaid to have been couſin-german of a more celebrated perſon, of the ſame name, prolocutor of the parliament which depoſed King Edward II.[q] Margaret, daughter and heir[r] of Sir William Truſſell, of Shotteſbroke, married Sir Fulke Pembrugge; and, dying in 1399, lies buried near the tomb of her father, under a ſlab, on which is her effigies, in braſs, with a head-dreſs, richly ornamented. In the ſame tranſept is the tomb of Sir Richard Powle, K. B. who died in 1678, and that of Thomas Noke, with his effigies, on braſs, "who, for his great age and virtuous life, was reverenced of all men, and

[i] See Eſch. Hen. III. and 28 Edw. I. [k] A practice of cutting out the ball of the foot, to prevent their hunting in the king's foreſts. [l] Pat. 14 Edw. III. [m] Eſch. 20 Edw. IV.
[n] Brooke's Catalogue. [o] Monumental Inſcriptions. [p] Blount's Tenures.
[q] Thomas Hearne's Letter, affixed to the fifth volume of Leland's Itinerary.
[r] His only ſon died without iſſue.

commonly called Father Noke, created eſquire by King Henry VIII. He was of ſtature high and comely; and, for his excellence in artillery, made yeoman of the crown of England; which had, in his life, three wives, and by every of them ſome fruit and offspring: he deceaſed the 21ſt day of Auguſt, 1567, in the year of his age 87." Elizabeth, Lady Hoby, one of the learned daughters of Sir Anthony Coke, wrote a Latin epitaph on him; which, as being ſomewhat better than thoſe written by her on the Hoby family at Biſham, is here inſerted, as a ſpecimen of that lady's compoſition:—

"O multum delecte ſenex, pater atque vocatus,
Vel quia grandævus, vel quia probus eras.
Annos vixiſti novies decem, atque ſatelles
Fidus eras regum, fidus eraſque tuis:
Jam fatis functus valeas, ſed tu Deus alme
Sic mihi concedas vivere, ſic que mori."

In the chancel is the monument of William Throckmorton, warden of the college of Shotteſbroke, who died in 1535: his effigies, in alabaſter, leſs than the life, lies within an oblong ſtone, hollowed out for its reception. On the floor are ſome braſs figures, under rich Gothic canopies; the inſcriptions are gone. There are in the chancel, alſo, ſeveral memorials for the family of Cherry, and the monument of the learned Henry Dodwell, ſome time Camden profeſſor of hiſtory, at Oxford; a very able chronologiſt and hiſtorian. His principal work, "*De Cyclis Veterum*," was written at Shotteſbroke: his epitaph, written by Dr. Friend, head maſter of Weſtminſter ſchool, is printed in the Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica.

In the church-yard is the tomb of Francis Cherry eſq. the friend of Dodwell, and the patron of Thomas Hearne. It has only the following inſcription: "Hic jacet Peccatorum maximus. Obiit anno dom. 1713, Sept. 13, Anno ætatis 48."

Mr. Vanſittart is impropriator of the great tithes, formerly belonging to the college, and patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading. It is annexed to White-Waltham.

SHRIVENHAM lies five miles to the ſouth-weſt of Faringdon, and gives name to the hundred in which it is ſituated. It is remarkable, that this place has eſcaped the notice of Camden, and all his editors, nor is any mention of it to be found in Aſhmole's Collections, or in the Magna Britannia: it has been, nevertheleſs, a place of conſiderable note from an early period. In 1257, William de Valence had a charter for a Thurſday's market here, and an annual fair at the feſtival of St. Mary

Magdalen[w], which were confirmed by another charter in 1383[x]. The market and fair have been long diſcontinued.

The principal manor of Shrivenham, which, in ſucceeding times, after it became the property of the Earls of Shrewſbury, was diſtinguiſhed by the name of Shrivenham-Salop, was granted by King John to Geffrey, Earl of Perch[y], whoſe ſon and ſucceſſor, Thomas, was ſlain in 1217, fighting on the ſide of the French, at the ſiege of Lincoln. His lands being forfeited, the manor of Shrivenham was ſucceſſively granted, within a very ſhort time, to Henry de Turbeville[z] and Robert de Brus[a]; but the biſhop of Chalons coming over to England, claimed it, as heir to the laſt earl, and ſold his right in it to William Marſhall, Earl of Pembroke, and William Longeſpee, Earl of Saliſbury[b]. Ela, Counteſs of Saliſbury, had livery of her huſband's right in this manor, in 1226[c]; notwithſtanding which, it was ſeiſed by the crown the ſame year[d]; and, in 1228, the manor was confirmed to William Marſhall[e]; from whom it paſſed, ſucceſſively, by heirs female, to the Valences, Earls of Pembroke; the Comyns, of Badenagh; and the Talbots, Earls of Shrewſbury[f]; by one of whom this manor was ſold to Sir Thomas Fettiplace[g]: in 1589, Sir Thomas Unton purchaſed it of Beſils Fettiplace; and dying in 1596, without iſſue, the reverſion, after the death of his widow, was ſold by Sir John Wentworth, who married one of his ſiſters, to Dame Dorothy Moor; and by her, in 1624, to the family of Rolte, who had been a conſiderable time proprietors of Shrivenham-Claycourt[h], being one of the manors into which this pariſh was, at an early period, divided, and to each of which a ſhare of the hundred was annexed. In the latter end of Henry IIId's reign, William de Valence, Joan de Champernon, and Thomas de Alta Ripa, or Hawtrey, held theſe three manors[i]: in the reign of Edward II. they were held by Aylmer de Valence, John de Wilington, and Thomas de Hawtrey. The manor belonging to the Hawtreys muſt have been Claycourt, which paſſed afterwards to the Beckinghams[k] and Roltes. The third manor, called Shrivenham-Stalpits, paſſed, after the death of Ralph, Lord Wilington, about the year 1399, by a female heir, to the Beaumonts[l], and was afterwards in the Courtneys, Earls of Devon, one of whom ſold it to Sir Thomas Unton, of Wadley[m], father of Sir Alexander, who died in 1547: it was purchaſed of the Untons, by Sir William Eſſex, who, by marriage with the heireſs of Rogers[n], had inherited the ancient manor and ſeat of Becket.

[w] Cart. 41 Hen. III. [x] Pat. 6 Rich. II. [y] Papers relating to the manor, collected by the firſt Lord Barrington. [z] Pat. 1 Hen. III. [a] Cl. 2 Hen. III. [b] Barrington Papers. [c] Cl. 10 Hen. III. [d] Ibid. [e] Barrington Papers. [f] Dugdale. [g] Barrington Papers. [h] Eſch. Eliz. [i] Barrington Papers. [k] Eſch. Hen. VIII. [l] See Eſch. 20 Rich. II. and Eſch. 2 Hen. VI. [m] Barrington Papers. [n] Berkſhire Pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum.

At

At the time of the Norman ſurvey, Becket, or as it was then written, Becote, belonged to the Earl of Evreux; it was not long afterwards in the crown, and became for ſome time one of the royal palaces. King John occaſionally reſided there, as appears by a mandate to the Sheriff of Oxfordſhire, ſigned by the king at Becket, in the 7th year of his reign. In the reign of Edward III. this manor was in the family of Becote or Becket [m], who held lands in Shrivenham, by the ſervice of coming before the king, whenever in his progreſs he ſhould paſs by Fowyeare's-Mill bridge, in Shrivenham, ſhowing him two white capons, and addreſſing him with the following ſingular ſpeech, "*Ecce Domine iſtos duos Capones quos alias habebitis ſed non nunc* [n]." The manor of Becket was afterwards in the Shotteſbrokes, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the family of Rogers [o]. Sir William Eſſex, a deſcendant of Sir William above-mentioned, was created a baronet in 1612, being deſcribed of Becket, which in 1621 he ſold, together with the manor of Shrivenham-Stalpits, to Roger Glover eſq. In 1632, Sir Henry Marten, judge advocate, purchaſed both theſe eſtates of Mr. Glover and his ſon, and in 1637, the manors of Shrivenham-Salop, and Shrivenham-Claycourt of the Roltes. In 1652, his ſon, Harry Marten the regicide, who ſquandered away the large fortune which his learned father had acquired by his profeſſional labours, ſold all theſe manors to Sir George Pratt bart. who, in 1655, conveyed them to Sir John Pettus and Thomas Huſſey, truſtees, as it appears, of John Wildman eſq. alderman of London, who, at the Revolution, was knighted and made poſt-maſter general; his ſon bequeathed them to his adopted heir, John Shute eſq. who afterwards took the name of Barrington, and, in 1720, was created Viſcount Barrington of the kingdom of Ireland. All the above manors, together with the hundred of Shrivenham, are now veſted in the Hon. Shute Barrington, lord biſhop of Durham, and other truſtees under the will of William Lord Barrington, who died in 1793. Becket-houſe, the ſeat of this noble family, is at preſent in the occupation of Barrington Price eſq. it is about to be entirely new modelled in the Gothic ſtyle, after deſigns made for that purpoſe by Mr. Atkinſon.

The manor of Weſt-mill, in this pariſh, belonged for ſeveral years to the Willoughbys of Biſhopſtone, in Wiltſhire, of whom it was purchaſed by the late Lord Holland, and is now the property of his ſon, the preſent lord.

The pariſh church, a large and handſome ſtructure, exhibits in its external appearance the later ſtyle of Gothic architecture. Withinſide is a double row of circular columns and arches, extending the whole length of the buildings, and

[m] Eſch. Edw. III. [n] "Behold my Lord theſe two capons, which you ſhall have another time, but not now. Harleian MSS. No. 2087, p. 177. [o] Berkſhire Pedigrees.

forming

forming aiſles both for the nave and chancel; the tower which is in the centre, is ſupported by four pointed arches. In the chancel are the monuments of Sir John Wildman, of Becket-houſe; John Wildman eſq. his ſon; the firſt Viſcount Barrington; and his ſon, the ſecond Viſcount. Sir John Wildman, who was alderman of London, and poſt-maſter general, died in 1693: he directed by his will, "that if his executors ſhould think fit there ſhould be ſome ſtone of ſmall price ſet near his aſhes, to ſignify, without fooliſh flattery, to his poſterity, that in that age lived a man who ſpent the beſt part of his days in priſons, without crimes, being conſcious of no offence towards man, for that he ſo loved his God that he could ſerve no man's will, and wiſhed the liberty and happineſs of his country, and of all mankind [q]." John Wildman the ſon, ſhewed an eminent degree of filial piety, by preferring "confinement for many years with his father, who was a priſoner of ſtate in the iſle of Scilly, in the reign of King Charles II. to the full enjoyment of his liberty. He always approved of the Roman method of adoption, and followed it himſelf, by appointing John Shute eſq. of the Inner-Temple, noways allied to him, to ſucceed to his eſtates [r]." Mr. Wildman died in 1710; his adopted heir, who was of an ancient family ſettled in the counties of Cambridge and Leiceſter, afterwards became heir alſo to Francis Barrington eſq. of Tofts, in conſequence of which he took the name and arms of that family, by act of parliament in 1716. Mr. Barrington diſtinguiſhed himſelf, both as a politician and a theological writer, his tenets being thoſe of the Preſbyterian diſſenters: in 1720 he was created a peer, by the title of Baron Barrington, of Newcaſtle, and Viſcount Barrington of Ardglaſs, in Ireland. This accompliſhed nobleman died at his ſeat at Becket, in 1734; his eldeſt ſon ſucceeded him in the title; his younger ſons (of whom the biſhop of Durham is the only ſurvivor) attained to ſome of the firſt ſituations in the church, the army, the navy, and the law. Lord Barrington, the elder ſon, lies buried in the chancel, at Shrivenham, where is the following inſcription to his memory: "In the ſouth-eaſtern part of the chancel are depoſited the remains of William Wildman, Viſcount Barrington, born Jan. 15, 1717, died February 1, 1793. His ſtrong diſcriminating underſtanding, his active talents, and unremitting aſſiduity in public buſineſs, rendered him early conſpicuous in the Houſe of Commons, of which he was 39 years uninterruptedly a member. During 34 years of that period, under the reigns of George II. and III. (two princes, whoſe confidence he enjoyed,) he ſerved the crown with inflexible integrity, high honour, and diſtinguiſhed abilities in the offices of ſecretary of the admiralty, maſter of the great wardrobe, ſecretary at war, chancellor of the exchequer, and treaſurer

[q] See the epitaph. [r] Ibid.

of

of the navy. In 1778, he retired from parliament, and public employment, to private life, in full poſſeſſion of his mental and bodily powers, and in the higheſt merited favour with his ſovereign. The candour of his mind, the ſoundneſs of his judgment, his accurate knowledge of mankind, and the urbanity of his manners, made him the delight of every ſociety in which he lived. His zeal to promote the public good, his wiſh to diffuſe happineſs to all around him, his benevolence which flowed from the heart, his kindneſs to the tenants and poor of his eſtates, and his affection to his family, ſecured to his character an eſteem, attachment, veneration, and love, which it has been the lot of few to experience. This monument is erected to his memory by his three ſurviving brothers, to whom he was the beſt of fathers and of friends." Two of Lord Barrington's brothers, Daines and Samuel, are ſince dead: the honourable Daines Barrington, formerly one of his Majeſty's counſel, and one of the juſtices of the great Seſſions for North-Wales, died March 14, 1800, and lies buried in the Temple church, where is a tablet to his memory: he was author of ſeveral ingenious treatiſes on antiquarian and other ſubjects. The honourable Samuel Barrington, admiral of the white, who died Auguſt 16, 1800, diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his gallant behaviour as a captain in the wars of 1741 and 1756, particularly by the capture of the Count de Florentine, a French ſhip of 60 guns, the flag of which ſtill remains in the chancel of Shrivenham church. He gained immortal honour by his repulſe of a very ſuperior force of the enemy at St. Lucie, when he had the command of a fleet in the Weſt-Indies in 1779. The admiral lies buried in the family vault at Shrivenham, where a monument has been lately erected to his memory, with the following inſcription. The verſes are from the pen of Mrs. Hannah More.

"Sacred to the memory of the honourable Samuel Barrington, admiral of the white, and general of marines, born February 15, 1730, died Auguſt 16, 1800."

"Here reſts the Hero, who, in glory's page,
Wrote his fair deeds for more than half an age.
Here reſts the Patriot, who for England's good,
Each toil encountered, and each clime withſtood;
Here reſts the Chriſtian, his the loftier theme,
To ſeize the conqueſt, yet renounce the fame.
He, when his arm St. Lucia's trophies boaſts,
Aſcribes the glory to the Lord of Hoſts;
And when the harder taſk remain'd behind
The paſſive courage and the will reſign'd,
Patient the veteran victor yields his breath
Secure in him who conquered ſin and death."

In

In the chancel at Shrivenham are memorials alſo for the family of Blagrave of Watchfield, in this pariſh. In the eaſt window are the arms of the abbey of Cirenceſter, impaling thoſe of John Hakeborne, the laſt abbot; Pleydell grantee of the rectory, impaling Ayſhcombe; and Bouverie, Earl of Radnor (with quarterings): theſe coats, with the figure of an abbot, in ſtained glaſs, were put up by the preſent earl of Radnor, impropriator of the great tithes of this pariſh, which (having belonged formerly to the abbot and convent of Cirenceſter), he inherited from the family of Pleydell. The vicarage is in the deanery of Abingdon, and in the patronage of the crown.

There was a chantry in Shrivenham church, founded and endowed by John de Burghton, and Agnes his wife, in 1336[r].

The principal hamlets in this pariſh, are *Bourton*, anciently *Burghton; Watchfield*, anciently *Wachenesfield*, *Longcot*, and *Farnham* or *Fearnham*, all of which ſupport their own poor. Bourton and Watchfield have been incloſed, by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1789, when allotments of land were aſſigned to Lord Radnor, as impropriator, and to the vicar; at Longcot is a chapel of eaſe, the chapel of Watchfield was pulled down about the year 1770. The hamlet of Longcot has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1796, when allotments of land were aſſigned to William Kemeys eſq. and Mary his wife, and to Mrs. Anne Furye, as impropriators of tithes in Eaſt-end and Weſt-end tithings, and an allotment to the vicar of Shrivenham.

The manor of *Watchfield* belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, ſo early as the time of King Kenulf[s]; after the reformation, it was for a conſiderable time in the family of Willoughby, of whom it was purchaſed by Henry Lord Holland. By a ſubſequent purchaſe it became the property of Lord Barrington, and now forms part of the Shrivenham eſtate. The manor of *Fearnham*, about the middle of the 16th century, was in the Windſors[t], afterwards in the Fettiplaces[u]; and is now the property of Mrs. Ann Furye, relict of the late Col. Furye, in whoſe family it had been a conſiderable time.

SPARSHOLT, or SPERSHOLT, in the hundred of Wanting and deanery of Abingdon, lies four miles weſt of the town of Wantage. The manor is ſaid to have been given by King Henry I. to the family of Achard[x]. It appears on record, that they were in poſſeſſion of it in 1299[y], from them it paſſed by female heirs to the De la Mares and Forſters. Sir William Forſter levied a fine of this manor in

[r] Pat. 10 Edw. III. [s] Dugdale. [t] Collins's Peerage. [u] Eſch. Car. I.
[x] Leland's Itinerary, vol. VI. p. 28. [y] Eſch. 27 Edw. I.

1607[z]; ſoon after this, Sparſholt became the ſeat of a branch of the Craven family: Anthony Craven eſq. of Sparſholt, who was created a baronet in 1661, died in 1670 without iſſue. The manor of Sparſholt, has ſince been in the families of Palmer and Richmond, the late general Gabbit became poſſeſſed of it by his marriage with Miſs Richmond: it now belongs to Thomas Spiers Gabbit eſq. the manor-houſe is occupied by a tenant.

In the chancel of the pariſh church is the tomb of a cruſader; in the ſouth tranſept are ſome ancient monuments ſuppoſed to be of the Achards: the effigies of a knight in wood lies on the floor; this is deſcribed by Aſhmole, as having been placed on an ancient altar-tomb, in the middle of the chapel. In the ſouth wall, under ogee arches, are two altar tombs, on which lie two female figures in wood, with veils and wimples, one of which Aſhmole has erroneouſly deſcribed as a man. Leland, in his Itinerary, ſays, "at Sparſhold lyeth one of the Achards, honorably buried in a chapel annexid, hard to the ſide of the paroche chirche, having a chauntry, and on eche ſide of him lyeth a wife of his. There is a commune ſaying, that the one of them was a duches, and the other a countes, but this ſaying hath little apparaunce of truthe." In the ſame chapel is the monument of Sir George Hyde, K. B. who died in 1625, a deſcendant of the Hydes of Denchworth, who removed from that place to Kingſton-Liſle, in this pariſh: the family is now extinct.

The great tithes of Sparſholt are veſted in the provoſt and ſcholars of Queen's College, in Oxford, who are patrons of the vicarage. The rectory and advowſon are ſaid to have been purchaſed of the Achards, by Robert Eglesfield, founder of that college, and made part of its endowment[a]. Sparſholt, and the hamlet of *Weſtcote*, were incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1800: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

The record of Domeſday mentions a manor in *Sperſolt*, belonging to the monaſtery of Abingdon; and ſtates, that the men of the county ſaid, that Edric gave it to his ſon, a monk at Abingdon, for life, and that they did not know that it ever belonged to the abbey, but the abbot claimed it as given to the convent in the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, and ſhowed the king's charter with his ſeal, and the ſignatures of all the monks.

*Kingſton-Liſle*, a hamlet of this pariſh, about a mile and a half weſt of Sparſholt, has a chapel of eaſe. The manor was the property and ſeat of the

[z] Papers belonging to Mr. Congreve, of Aldermaſton. [a] Mr. Noble's anſwer to Mr. Rowe Mores's Queries in Bib. Top. Brit.—Bacon's Liber Regis deſcribes the rectory as having been appropriated to the abbot and convent of Abingdon.

ancient and noble family of De Inſula, or De Liſle. Alice De Liſle had the king's licence for incloſing a park here, in 1336[b]. John Talbot, the great Earl of Shrewſbury, having married Margaret, one of the daughters and coheirs of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, by the only daughter and heir of Thomas Lord Berkeley, who had married the heireſs of the Liſles, his eldeſt ſon was, in 1444, created Baron Liſle, and in 1452, Viſcount Liſle. The title of Baron Liſle has paſſed by heirs female, but not without attainders and revivals, through the families of Grey, Dudley, and Sidney; it finally became extinct in 1743. The manor of Kingſton-Liſle was for many years in the Hydes; it was purchaſed of this family, on or about the year 1750, by Abraham Atkins eſq. who bequeathed it to his nephew Edwin Martin, father of Abraham Edwin Martin Atkins eſq. the preſent proprietor: Mr. Atkins, who has a ſeat at Kingſton-Liſle, is proprietor alſo of the manors of Eaſt-Manton and Weſtcote. Eaſt-Manton belonged to the Forſters; Weſtcote was formerly in the Pleydells, and afterwards the property of Lord Downe, of whom it was purchaſed by Abraham Atkins, above-mentioned. *Farlow* or *Fawler*, within the manor of Kingſton-Liſle, is a hamlet of this pariſh, at which there was formerly a chapel of eaſe, dedicated to St. James: it has been many years gone to decay, and a chapel at Kingſton-Liſle has been built in lieu of it. The hamlets of *Kingſton-Liſle* and *Fawler* have been incloſed, by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1777, under which a great part of the neighbouring pariſh of Uffington was alſo incloſed. It appears that the tithes of theſe hamlets were then the ſubject of litigation, they were not to be affected by the act, unleſs the proprietors requeſted an allotment. Lord Craven has a large eſtate at Kingſton-Liſle, the manſion belonging to which is at preſent in the tenure of Edward Thornhill eſq.

SPEEN or SPENE, ſuppoſed by moſt writers to have been the Roman *Spinæ*, is ſituated partly within the hundred of Faircroſs, and partly within that of Kentbury-Eagle, about a mile to the north-weſt of Newbury. It had formerly a market on Mondays, which was granted in 1218 to William Marſhall, Earl of Pembroke[c].

Spene was one of the principal ſcenes of action, in the ſecond battle of Newbury; Prince Maurice's foot, and ſome horſe, were quartered there at the beginning of the engagement, in the courſe of which, the village was taken by the oppoſite party[d].

From a very early period, there were two principal manors in this pariſh, Church-Spene and Wood-Spene. Church-Spene, when the Norman Survey was taken, belonged to Humphrey Vis de Lou; in the 13th century, it was in the Deſpencers[e];

[b] Cart. 10 Edw. III. [c] Cl. 2 Hen. III. [d] Clarendon. [e] Eſch. Edw. I.

afterwards, ſucceſſively in the families of Elford and Mounteneye [f]. In 1400, this manor was granted to John Champe [g], who died ſeiſed of it in 1441 [h]. In the reign of Edward IV. it was in the family of Rogers [i], from whom it paſſed, by female deſcent, to Sir William Eſſex, who with his ſon gave it to King Henry VIII. in 1543.

The manor of Wood-Spene belonged to the Marſhalls, Earls of Pembroke; from them it deſcended with other eſtates, and the earl marſhal's ſtaff, to Thomas Brotherton Earl of Norfolk, who gave it to King Edward III. in 1332 [k]. The ſame year the king granted it to his relation William de Bohun, afterwards Earl of Northampton [l]. On a partition of the eſtates of the Bohuns, it came again to the crown, but was given in 1483, by King Richard III. to Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, as being deſcended from that family [m]: on the duke's attainder, it became again veſted in the crown.

This manor was granted in 1565, to John Baptiſt de Caſtillon: his ſon, Sir Francis, ſold it in 1630, to the truſtees of Sir William Craven, from whom it deſcended to the preſent proprietor, the Earl of Craven.

In the pariſh church is an altar tomb, with the effigies in armour of John Baptiſt Caſtillon eſq. above-mentioned, a Piedmonteſe who died in 1597; and the monument of Dame Elizabeth Caſtillon, wife of his ſon Sir Francis, who died in 1603. Her effigies is repreſented habited in a fardingale, and flowered gown, with a veil which almoſt covers the body. There are ſome memorials alſo for the Craven family.

The great tithes of Spene, which were given by William Marſhall, Earl of Pembroke, to the knights hoſpitallers, are now appropriated to the ſee of Saliſbury: the biſhop is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury. Spene-moor or mead, in this pariſh, was incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1737. The remainder of the pariſh, excepting the hamlet of *Bagnor*, has been ſince incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1779. Allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriator, and to the vicar; and to the latter, a rent in lieu of the tithes of old incloſures.

*Speenhamland*, a tithing of this pariſh lies on the road from London to Bath, contiguous to the town of Newbury, and appears to be part of its ſuburbs. The manor was anciently in the Clares, Earls of Glouceſter [n], from whom it paſſed ſucceſſively by female heirs, to the Deſpencers, Beauchamps, and Nevilles. Having been many years in the crown, it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Thomas Crompton [o]:

[f] Eſch. Edw. III. and Ric. II. [g] Pat. 1 Hen. IV. [h] Eſch. Hen. VI. [i] Eſch. 11 Edw. IV.
[k] Cl. 6 Edw. III. [l] Pat. 6 Edw. III. [m] Dugdale's, Baronage. [n] Eſch. Edw. I.
[o] Records in the augmentation office.

it

it afterwards became the property of the Dolmans; and, having paſſed by the ſame title as the neighbouring manor of Shaw, belongs now to Sir Joſeph Andrews bart.

Mrs. Anne Watts, in the year 1664, founded an alms-houſe, at Speenhamland, for two poor widows, who receive about 2s. a-week each.

Marſh-Benham, Benham-Valence, and *Bagnor*, are in this pariſh. The manor of Benham-Valence, which at an earlier period had been in the families of Camvil and Wake, took its name from William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, to whom King Henry III. granted it in 1250[p]. In the year 1340, it paſſed with the title of Earl of Pembroke, by female deſcent, to Laurence, Lord Haſtings [q]: Sir William Eſſex, who acquired it by marriage with the heireſs of Rogers, gave the manor and park to King Henry VIII. in 1542 [r]. It is probable that they were not long afterwards granted to Sir Walter Mildmay; for it appears that he ſurrendered them to the crown in 1551[s]. Queen Elizabeth gave Benham-Valence, with Wood-Spene, to John Baptiſt de Caſtillon in 1565, for his faithful ſervices to her in her troubles [t]. His ſon, Sir Francis, ſold it in 1630, to the anceſtors of the preſent proprietor, the Earl of Craven. This manor was held by grant-ſerjeanty, by the ſervice of keeping the door of the king's chamber [u].

Benham-Place, a villa of the late Lord Craven's, is now the ſeat of their Serene Highneſſes, the Margrave and Margravine of Anſpach. The Margravine, who was relict of Lord Craven, purchaſed it a few years ago for her ſon, the Earl. The houſe, an elegant ſtructure of the Ionic order, was completed in the year 1775; it was built by Brown, under the direction of Lady Craven. Benham-Place is pleaſantly ſituated between the Bath road, and the Kennet, which ſupplies a fine ſheet of water in front of the houſe. The lodges, at the eaſtern and weſtern extremities of the park, were built not long ago by the Margravine.

The manor of Bagnor, which belonged to the priory of Poghly, is now veſted in the dean and chapter of Weſtminſter, to whom it was given by King Henry VIII. in exchange for ſome lands, which now form part of St James's park.

STANFORD, in the hundred of Ganfield, ſometimes called *Stanford* in the *Vale*, is ſituated in the vale of White Horſe, on the road from Faringdon to Wantage, four miles from the former, and five from the latter: it had formerly a market on Thurſdays, long diſcontinued, granted by a charter of Henry III. in 1230, together with a fair on the feſtival of St. Dionyſius, to the family of Ferrars, Earl of Derby [x], who from the time of the conqueſt, had been in poſſeſſion of the manor. The eſtates

[p] Cart. 35 Hen. III. [q] Eſch. Hen. IV. &c. and Dugdale's Baronage. [r] Records in the augmentation office. [s] Ibid. [t] Camden. [u] Blount's tenures. [x] Cart. 14 Hen. III.

belonging

belonging to this earldom were all forfeited in 1266[z]; and it is ſuppoſed that the manor of Stanford was granted to the Clares, Earls of Glouceſter, who were poſſeſſed of it in 1290[a]. From them it paſſed, by heirs female, to the Deſpencers, Beauchamps, and Nevilles; and became veſted in the crown by the marriage of Anne Neville, daughter of the Earl of Warwick, with the duke of Glouceſter, afterwards King Richard III. In the reign of Henry VIII. it was in the family of Fettiplace[b], who continued to poſſeſs it for a conſiderable time. This manor is now the property of Edward Loveden Loveden eſq. who purchaſed it, about the year 1790, of the late Hervey Aſton eſq. and the Rev. Mr. Hatch, who held it in moities. The moiety which belonged to Mr. Hatch, deſcended to him from his grandfather, Mr. Avery Tyrrell, of Stanford. Mr. Worthington, lord of the manor and hundred of Wantage, holds a court here, as lord paramount.

The pariſh church is a handſome Gothic building; the tower is one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed objects in the vale. The cognizances of the roſe and fetlock, impaling the ragged ſtaff on the ſouth porch, ſeem to denote that it was built about the time of the match of Lady Anne Neville with the Duke of Glouceſter. In the chancel windows, are the arms of Clare, Earl of Glouceſter, and Zouch. The only monument deſerving of notice, is that of one of the Knolles family, a nephew of the firſt Earl of Banbury, who died in 1640. The dean and chapter of Weſtminſter have the great tithes of this pariſh, and are patrons of the vicarage which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The pariſh of Stanford has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1783; the lands were not exonerated from tithes. Joſeph Pitt eſq. of Cirenceſter, is leſſee of the great tithes under the church of Weſtminſter.

STANFORD-DINGLEY, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about nine miles to the north-eaſt of Newbury, and about 11 to the weſt of Reading. The editor of Aſhmole's Collections has confounded the hiſtory of this place with that of Standford in the vale. The manor of Stanford, in the hundred of Faircroſs, belonged to the Barons Somery; the Punchardons, who held it under them[c], became afterwards poſſeſſed of the fee, in which they were ſucceeded by the family of Stokes[d]. About the year 1700, it belonged to the Hilleſdons; from whom it paſſed by purchaſe to its late owner Mr. Barker: the preſent proprietor is Mrs. Corniſh.

Ruſhdens, an ancient manſion in this pariſh, was for more than two centuries a ſeat of the Lyfords. The heireſs of this family married Mr. Granger, who was poſſeſſed of it in 1759[e]: it is now the property of Mr. Matthews.

[z] Dugdale. [a] Eſch. Edw. I. [b] Will of Sir Thomas Fettiplace, 1524. [c] Eſch. Edw. I. and Edw. II. [d] Eſch. Edw. II.—Hen. VI. [e] Anſwer to Mr. R. Mores's queries in Bib. Top. Brit.

In

In the parish church is a brass plate, with a memorial of Margaret, the wife of William Dyneley, (esquire of the body to King Henry VIII.) who died in 1444. It seems not improbable that the Dyneleys succeeded the family of Stokes in the manor, and gave their name, since corrupted to Dingley, to the village: in all very ancient records it is called Stanford, without any addition.

The Rev. Richard Valpy, D.D. master of Reading school, is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

STEVENTON, in the hundred of Ock, lies about four miles, nearly to the south of Abingdon. At this place was an alien priory of black monks, a cell to the abbey of Bec Harlewin in Normandy, to which monastery the manor had been given by King Henry I. The alien priories having been suppressed during the war with France, in the reign of king Edward the III. the abbey of Bec-Harlewin, sold this manor with the advowson of the church to Sir Hugh Calveley, whose trustees conveyed it, in 1393, to John bishop of Salisbury, and Roger Walden [f], supposed to have been trustees for the crown, as the manor was soon afterwards in the hands of the king, who granted it to the abbot and convent of Westminster [g]; it now belongs to the dean and chapter of that church, who are impropriators also of the great tithes, and patrons of the vicarage. Steventon lies within the deanery of Abingdon: in the church are some memorials of the family of Wiseman, who had a seat in this parish, and another at Sparsholt-court in the neighbourhood.

STRATFIELD-MORTIMER, in the hundred of Theale, lies seven miles to the south-west of Reading, on the borders of Hampshire, into which county the parish extends. The manor was in the Mortimer family, from the time of the conquest till the death of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, in 1425 [h], when it devolved to his cousin and heir, Richard, Duke of York, father of King Edward IV. and thus became vested in the crown. In 1495, it was in jointure to the Queen of King Henry VII. [i] In 1538, Mortimer great park was leased, for 21 years, to William, Marquis of Winchester, and the lease was renewed in 1551 [k]. Queen Elizabeth, in 1564, granted the manor, with the great and little park, to Henry, Lord Hunsdon, who sold them the same year to the Marquis of Winchester. This estate has descended from the noble family of Pawlet to the present proprietor, Richard Benyon esq. M. P. in the same manner as Englefield [l].

The manor of Wokefield, anciently called Hocselle, and now Oakfield, was, at the time of the Norman-Survey, in the hands of the crown, as an appendage to

[f] Pat. 17 Rich. II. p. 2. [g] Tanner. [h] Esch. 3 Hen. VI. [i] Rolls of Parliament.
[k] Mr. Benyon's Papers. [l] See p. 275.

Aldermaston:

Aldermaſton: it was afterwards held, with Stratfield, by the Mortimers, and was, with that manor, in jointure to the Queen of King Henry VII. in 1495 [m]. It was ſettled by King Henry VIII. on his laſt queen, Catherine Parr. After this it became, by purchaſe, the property of the great lawyer, Serjeant Plowden [n], who, according to Anthony Wood, had "a fair eſtate," in the adjoining pariſh of Burghfield, of which he died poſſeſſed in 1584. This manor was ſold, in 1626, by Francis Plowden eſq. to Peter Weaver, whoſe grandſon, by his only daughter, was Francis Parry, envoy to Portugal, in the reign of King Charles II. Three-fourths of the manor of Oakfield were purchaſed by the Earl of Uxbridge, in 1742, of Mr. Parry's repreſentatives; and by his grandſon, the ſecond earl, ſold to the late Bernard Brocas eſq. whoſe widow is the preſent proprietor. The remaining fourth is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Morgan, prebendary of Glouceſter, and vicar of Stratfield-Mortimer, by inheritance from his mother, one of the ſiſters and co-heirs of Charles Parry eſq. who died in 1740.

John Dabridgecourt, and Agnes his wife, were poſſeſſed of an eſtate in this pariſh, called, in a record of 1432 [o], the manor of Stratfield-Mortimer, which deſcended to the poſterity of William Brocas eſq. ſecond huſband of Agnes Dabridgecourt, and continued in their poſſeſſion in 1485 [p].

The abbot and convent of Reading had a manor in this pariſh, which was granted, in 1550, to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick. This manor was afterwards in the noble family of Lucas, and paſſed, by the marriage of Mary, only daughter of John, Lord Lucas, in 1662, to Anthony, Earl of Kent. In 1724, the manor and eſtate were ſold, piece-meal, by his ſon, the duke. The greater part is now the property of Mrs. Anne Bever.

In the chancel of the pariſh church is a window of ſtained glaſs, put together by Dr. Bever, the late vicar: in the centre is a portrait of William of Wickham, Biſhop of Wincheſter. The great tithes are appropriated to Eton College: the provoſt and fellows are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading: Mrs. Anne Bever is leſſee under the college.

Mortimer-heath, containing 1500 acres, was incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1802: an allotment of 100 acres was aſſigned to the poor for fuel: the incloſed lands are ſubject to tithes: an allotment was reſerved for holding Mortimer fair. There are two annual fairs held in the pariſh, April 27th and November 6th. The remainder of the pariſh, excepting the tithing of Wokefield, had been incloſed by a former act.

[m] Rolls of Parliament. [n] From the information of Dr. Morgan. [o] Eſch. 10 Hen. VI.
[p] Eſch.

STREATLY, in the hundred of Moreton, lies by the Thames ſide, about ſix miles ſouth of Wallingford, on the road to Reading. It is ſuppoſed to have taken its name from being ſituated on the ancient Ichnield-Street, or Ickleton-Way, as it is here called, which croſſes the Thames from this place to Goring, in Oxfordſhire. The manor was anciently in the Mohuns [s], afterwards in the De la Poles, Dukes of Suffolk [t]; at a later period in the Sambourns: Sir Henry Sambourn was lord of the manor in 1644. Sir John Ruſh had a ſeat here, and a moiety of the manor, about the middle of the laſt century. The preſent proprietor of the manor, Richard Palmer eſq. of Holme-park, near Sunning, purchaſed one moiety of the Ruſh family, and the other of ſeveral proprietors, among whom it was divided. The Biſhop of Saliſbury is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Wallingford. The great tithes, formerly appropriated to the priory of Hurley, are now annexed to the ſee of Saliſbury. Southridge and Weſtridge are in this pariſh.

SULHAM, in the hundred of Theale, lies about ſix miles nearly weſt of Reading, between the Bath and Wallingford roads. The manor belonged anciently to the family of St. Philibert [u], afterwards to the Carews: it is probable, that it paſſed from them to their repreſentatives, the Iwarbys [x] and St. Johns, who inherited the neighbouring manor of Purley. It is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Wilder, in whoſe family it has been for a conſiderable time. Dr. Wilder is the preſent incumbent, and patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading.

SULHAMSTED-ABBOTS, or ABBAS, in the hundred of Theale, called, in old deeds, Suthampſted and Chilhampſted, lies about ſix miles nearly to the ſouth of Reading. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, was granted, in 1541, to Sir John Williams [y], from whom it paſſed, by female heirs, to the families of Norris and Bertie. In the early part of the laſt century, it was purchaſed of one of the Earls of Abingdon, by Daniel May eſq. whoſe ſon gave it to his nephew, John Thoyts eſq. It is now the property and ſeat of William Thoyts eſq. his ſon.

The manor of the liberty of Grieſley, or Greaſely, in this pariſh, belonged alſo to the abbot and convent of Reading. In 1541, being then called the manor of Greyſhall, it was granted to Sir John Williams; and having deſcended, with Sulhamſted-Abbots, by female heirs, to the noble family of Bertie, was purchaſed of

[s] Nomina Villarum, No. 6281. Harl. MSS. Brit. Muſ. Eſch. Edw. I.—Edw. III.
[t] Eſch. Hen. VI.
[u] See Eſch. 6 Edw. IV.
[x] Records in the Augmentation Office.

the Earl of Abingdon, by John James eſq. of Denford: it is now the property of Sir Walter James James bart.[x] The family of James reſided at Grieſley, long before they acquired this manor; Walter, the ſon of Walter James, was baptiſed at Sulhamſted, in 1630, as appears by the pariſh regiſter.

The family of Perkins, who were ſettled at Ufton, had formerly an eſtate in this pariſh, called the manor of Faxes-Court[y].

Sulhamſted-Abbots, together with the neighbouring pariſh of Sulhamſted-Banniſter, form now one conſolidated rectory, in the deanery of Reading, of which the provoſt and ſcholars of Queen's College, in Oxford, are patrons. The advowſon of Sulhamſted-Abbots was purchaſed by the college of Lord Norris, about the year 1610[z]. The advowſon of Sulhamſted-Banniſter was given to the priory of Sherbourn, about the year 1364, by John Banniſter; and was granted, by King Edward IV. to Queen's College, with that priory, and its eſtates. The lands of the two Sulhamſteds are much intermixed with each other, and with thoſe of the adjoining pariſhes.

Sulhamsted-Bannister lies about five miles to the ſouth-weſt of Reading. The manor belonged anciently to the family of Banniſter[a], from whom it took its additional name, and afterwards, ſucceſſively, to the De la Mares[b] and Forſters. Within the laſt century, this manor has been in the families of Ball, Jennings, and Stephens; it was purchaſed of the latter, in 1774, by William Thoyts eſq. grandfather of the preſent proprietor. Samuel Morland, ſon of the Rev. Thomas Morland, rector of the Sulhamſteds, was created a baronet by King Charles II. in 1660, as a reward for ſeveral important diſcoveries, which he had made to that monarch at Bruſſels: he had been under ſecretary to Thurloe, and had been employed by Cromwell, in various embaſſies: in his patent of creation, he was deſcribed as of Sulhamſted-Banniſter, but we have not been able to learn whether he was poſſeſſed of the manor, or any conſiderable property in the pariſh. It was this baronet, and not his ſon, as Granger erroneouſly ſuppoſes, who diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his ſkill in mechanics, and was appointed maſter of the mechanics to King Charles II. he died in 1695, at the age of 82[c], having ſo far outlived his faculties, that he was unable to ſign his name to the will, by which he diſinherited his only ſon of the ſame name, who was the ſecond and laſt baronet of the family, and bequeathed the whole of his property to Mrs. Zenobia Hough.

[x] See p. 306. [y] Eſch. Edw. IV. [z] Anſwers to Mr. Rowe Mores's Queries in Bib. Top. Brit. [a] Eſch. Edw. III. [b] Eſch. 46 Edw. III. [c] Le Neves MSS. in the Collection of Mr. John Nichols.

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The parſonage houſe, which was formerly in Sulhamſted-Abbots, near the church, was removed to its preſent ſituation in this pariſh, not far from the river Kennet, and the Bath road, by Mr. Halton, who was rector, in 1693[d]. Sulhamſted-Banniſter is in the hundred and deanery of Reading.

SUNNING, in the hundred of that name, lies on the banks of the Thames, about three miles nearly eaſt of Reading, to the north of the London road. It has been ſaid, that this place was a biſhop's ſee, during the ſeparation of Wiltſhire, and, as ſome ſuppoſe, Berkſhire, from the ſee of Sherbourn; but Biſhop Tanner's editor, on the authority of William of Malmſbury, who expreſsly ſays, that Wiltſhire only was ſeparated from Sherbourn, is of opinion, that the biſhops of the new ſee had no other ſeat than Ramſbury, until Biſhop Herman removed to Old Sarum[e]. It is certain, that the biſhops of Saliſbury held the manor of Sunning, at the time of the conqueſt, and that the manor houſe was, for ſome centuries afterwards, their occaſional reſidence. In 1389, we are told, that the Biſhop of Saliſbury, being at his manor houſe, at Sunning, was informed of the ſecret practices of the Wickliffites[f]. Iſabel, Queen of King Richard II. reſided at the biſhop of Saliſbury's manor place, at Sunning, during the interval between the depoſition and death of that unfortunate monarch, who was then a priſoner at Pomfret[g]: Biſhop Nevil dates from Sunning, in 1436[h]. In Leland's time there remained "a fair old houſe of ſtone, at Sonninge, by the Thamiſe ripe, longging to the biſhop of Sareſbyri, and thereby a fair parke." In the year 1574, Edmund, biſhop of Saliſbury, gave the manor of Sunning to Queen Elizabeth, in exchange for eſtates in Dorſetſhire[i]. It was granted by King Charles I. in 1628, to Lawrence Halſtead and Abraham Chamberlain: not long afterwards it came into the family of Rich, who ſettled at Sunning in or before the year 1650. Thomas Rich eſq. who had been a great friend to the ſuffering clergy, and had entertained the deprived Biſhop Brownrig under his roof at Sunning, during the greater part of Cromwell's protectorate[k], was created a baronet in 1660. The title became extinct in 1803, by the death of Sir Thomas Rich, admiral of the blue, who had ſold the manor of Sunning, in 1795, to Richard Palmer eſq. the preſent proprietor. Mr. Palmer has a very handſome ſeat, called Holme-park, which he began to build the year after he had purchaſed the manor.

[d] From the information of Mr. Wilſon, the preſent rector. [e] Notitia Monaſtica. [f] Holinſhed. [g] Ibid. [h] Deed of Endowment of Coxwell Vicarage. [i] From the information of Mr. Boucher, regiſtrar of the dioceſe of Saliſbury. [k] Biograph. Brit. article Brownrig.

The Survey of Domeſday mentions two manors of *Herlei*, in the hundred of Charlton, and another manor of *Hurlei*, in the hundred of Reading, beſides Herlei, in the hundred of Bernerſh, (now Hurley,) between Maidenhead and Henley. The three former, it is probable, all apply to the Earleys, in this pariſh. The Erles, an ancient family, one of whom was knight of the ſhire, in the reign of Edward I. poſſeſſed one of theſe manors[l], from which they ſeem to have taken their name. In or about the year 1392, John Shelford, who became poſſeſſed of a life-intereſt in the manor of *Erlegh*-Whyte-Knights, by marrying the widow of Henry Aldryngton, purchaſed the inheritance[m]. Being veſted in the crown, in 1412, King Henry IV. granted it, with the cuſtody of a free chapel there, which had belonged to the hoſpital of lepers at Reading, to John Beke[n]; Sir Thomas Beke died ſeiſed of it in 1547[o]; it appears on record, that, ſome years before his death, he had diſſolved the free chapel of *Arley*-White-Knights, without the king's leave[p]. About the middle of the 17th century, if not before, Earley-White-Knights became the property and ſeat of a younger branch of the Engleſield family, to whom the title of baronet afterwards devolved. It is now the country ſeat of the Marquis of Blandford, who purchaſed the houſe and manor of Sir Henry Charles Engleſield, the preſent baronet; Sir Henry retains a conſiderable eſtate in the pariſh of Sunning.

The manor of Maiden-Earley, now the ſeat of Edward Golding eſq. M. P. has, of late years, undergone frequent alienations; it was purchaſed by Mr. Golding, of William Matthew Birt eſq. governor-general of the Leeward Iſlands.

Earley-Court, in this pariſh, having been formerly in the Hookes[q], and afterwards, for ſeveral years, in the Manleys, of Cheſhire, was purchaſed of Sir John Powell Price, and his lady, in the year 1765, by the late John Bagnall eſq. who died in 1802, leaving two daughters; one married to the Hon. Thomas Windſor; the other to the celebrated civilian, Sir William Scott, judge of the high court of Admiralty, who now reſides at Earley-Court.

William Fettiplace eſq. when he endowed a chantry, ſchool, and alms-houſes, at Childrey, in 1526, among other eſtates given to the provoſt and ſcholars of Queen's College, in Oxford, for their ſupport, mentions ſome lands in Earley, and a free chapel of St. Bartholomew[r], which was ſituated at Earley-Court, and is ſaid to have been a building, which is now the ſtable belonging to that manſion. Certain fields, lying in Earley, within the pariſh of Sunning, were incloſed by act of parliament, in 1742.

[l] Eſch. Edw. II. and Edw. III. [m] Pat. 16 Rich. II. [n] Pat. 14 Hen. IV.
[o] Eſch. Hen. VIII. [p] Coates's Hiſtory of Reading, p. 278. note.
[q] Monumental Inſcriptions at Sunning, 1625, &c. [r] See his Deed in Bib. Top. Brit.

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The manor of Bulmarſh, in this pariſh, belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, and was granted, in 1546, to William Grey[s], whoſe widow is ſuppoſed to have brought it in marriage to John Blagrave, the father of the celebrated mathematician[t], who was born either at this place, or at Reading. Bulmarſh continued in his family till the death of the late George Blagrave, of whoſe executors it was purchaſed, by the Right Hon. Henry Addington, now Lord Viſcount Sidmouth, and preſident of the council, who had a ſeat here, called Woodley-Lodge, at which he reſided in the ſummer ſeaſon; whilſt, during a period of 12 years, he filled the chair of the Houſe of Commons, with ſo much honour to himſelf, and advantage to his country. When the duties of the more elevated ſtation of prime miniſter, which he was called to fill in the year 1801, obliged him to reſide nearer to London, he ſold the manor of Bulmarſh and Woodley-Houſe to Mr. James Wheeble, who is the preſent proprietor. Woodley-Houſe was built by Mr. Wheeble's father; ſold by him to Admiral, (now Lord,) Hotham; and by Admiral Hotham to Mr. Addington, now Lord Sidmouth.

In the pariſh church of Sunning are ſeveral memorials for the family of Barker, deſcended from William Barker eſq. who was ſteward to the biſhop of Saliſbury, in the reign of Henry VIII.; the tomb of Lawrence Fytton eſq. who was ſteward of the manor in 1434, being that of "one Fytton Eſquire, in the preſbitery," mentioned by Leland, ſtill remains; but there are no veſtiges of the tombs of "ſome voueſſes[u], kinſwomen of the biſhop of Sareſbyri," ſpoken of by the ſame author. In the ſouth aiſle are ſome memorials for the family of Rich. The monument of Sir Thomas Rich, the firſt baronet of that family, who died in 1667, is very heavy. There are memorials alſo for the families of Engleſield, Blagrave, and Hooke. Between the body of the chancel and its north aiſle, is an elegant pointed arch, very richly ornamented with figures of ſaints, &c.

In 1762, the late Mr. Palmer purchaſed a moiety of the impropriate parſonage and manor of the rectory, then held on leaſe under the dean of Saliſbury, by the family of Rich; and ten years afterwards the other moiety, held jointly by Lord Macclesfield and Mr. Child. In 1773, the fee of the parſonage and rectorial manor, which, from time immemorial, had been annexed to the deanery of Saliſbury, was veſted, by act of parliament, in Mr. Palmer, ſubject to an annual payment to the dean of Saliſbury, who has peculiar juriſdiction in the pariſh, and is patron of the vicarage. The pariſh of Sunning is very extenſive, containing, according to Rocque's Survey, above 7000 acres, excluſive of that part which is within an inſulated diſtrict of Wiltſhire. Hurſt, Ruſcombe, and Sandhurſt, are ſeparate pariſhes, but their chapels are dependant on Sunning, as the mother church.

[s] Coates's Hiſtory of Reading, p. 264. [t] Ibid. 265, 266. [u] Nuns.

SUNNINGHILL,

SUNNINGHILL, in the hundred of Cookham, lies about ſix miles nearly to the ſouth of Windſor.

In this pariſh, at a place called Bromehall, was a ſmall convent of Benedictine nuns, founded before the reign of King John. In 1522, it was abandoned by the nuns who were then only two in number; and having been adjudged an eſcheat to the crown, was granted through the intereſt of Biſhop Fiſher, with all its appurtenances, (among which, were the rectory and advowſon of Sunninghill,) to St. John's College, in Cambridge.

The manor of Sunninghill, in the reign of Edward III. belonged to the Sunninghills, who took their name from the village[x]; it was afterwards in the family of Norris[y]. Of late years it has undergone frequent alienations: the preſent proprietor, James Sibbald eſq. purchaſed it of James Hartley eſq. in 1787: Mr. Sibbald has an elegant modern manſion in this pariſh, called Selwood-park, pleaſantly ſituated on the borders of Windſor-Foreſt.

Sunninghill-Park, now the ſeat of Jeremiah Crutchley eſq. was formerly part of the royal demeſnes; and is ſuppoſed to have been granted by King Charles I. to the family of Carey. Sir Thomas Draper of Sunninghill-Park, who was created a baronet in 1660, married an heireſs of that family. Mr. Crutchley purchaſed it in 1769, of Thomas Draper Barber eſq. grandſon of Sir Thomas Draper.

In the pariſh church is a very ancient inſcription on a ſquare pillar, between the nave, and the chancel, commemorating the *obit* of Livingus, a prieſt. There are ſome memorials for the families of Buckworth, baronets, and Baber. Sunninghill is in the deanery of Reading.

In this pariſh is a chalybeate ſpring, called Sunninghill-Wells, adjoining to which is a room where public breakfaſts are occaſionally held.

SUNNINGWELL, in the hundred of Hormer, lies about three miles north of Abingdon. The manor was formerly parcel of the poſſeſſions of the abbot and convent of Abingdon; ſometime after the reformation it belonged to the family of Baſkerville, of whom it was purchaſed about the year 1720, by the Stonhouſes; and is now, by inheritance in the female line[z], the property of Sir George Bowyer bart.

In the pariſh church is the monument of Hannibal Baſkerville, lord of the manor, who died in 1668, and ſome memorials of Biſhop Fell's family; that prelate was born at Longworth[a] in this county; not at Sunningwell, as erroneouſly ſtated by Anthony Wood and others. Sir George Bowyer is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. The pariſh of Sunningwell *cum* Bayworth was incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1723.

[x] Eſch. Edw. III. [y] Eſch. Edw. IV. [a] See p. 327. [z] See the account of that pariſh.

*Bayworth,*

*Bayworth*, is a conſiderable hamlet in this pariſh, which had a chapel of eaſe, now gone to decay: it was much reſorted to for private marriages, before the marriage act. The manor of Bayworth was given to the abbot and convent of Abingdon in 1329 [b]; and it has ſince paſſed with the manor of Sunningwell, being now the property of Sir George Bowyer bart.

At *Kennington*, a large hamlet or townſhip, partly in this pariſh, and partly in that of Radley, was a chapel of eaſe which fell down not many years ago. The manor which belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was in 1631, in the family of Lyon [c]: it is now the property of the Earl of Peterborough. The townſhip of Kennington has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1802; when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector of Sunningwell, in lieu of tithes.

Bagley-Wood, adjoining to this pariſh, where the preſident and ſcholars of St. John's College in Oxford have a manor, is extra parochial.

SUTTON-COURTNEY, or COURTENAY, in the hundred of Ock, lies about three miles nearly ſouth of Abingdon. The manor belonged at a very early period to the abbot and convent of Abingdon: Rethunus the abbot gave it to Kenulf, king of the Mercians and Weſt-Saxons, in exchange for the ſite of an ancient royal palace where the king's hounds and hawks were kept to the great annoyance of the convent [d]. King Henry II. gave it to Reginald Courtenay [e], anceſtor of the Earls of Devonſhire, and of the preſent Viſcount Courtenay. On the attainder of Thomas Courtenay, Earl of Devonſhire, for being in arms againſt King Edward IV. at Towton field, this manor was granted in 1462 to Sir Walter Devereux [f]. After this it was reſtored to the Courtenays, and having been again forfeited to the crown by the attainder of Henry Courtenay Marquis of Exeter, was leaſed by Philip and Mary to Elizabeth, Lady Maſon, and by Queen Elizabeth in 1591, to Sir Richard Hyde for 60 years [g]. The fee was granted by King Charles the Firſt, to certain citizens of London, of whom it was purchaſed by the firſt Lord Craven: it is now the property of his deſcendant, William Earl of Craven.

In the pariſh church is a memorial for George Hyde eſq. who died in 1661. Aſhmole has recorded the monument of Sir Richard Hyde, leſſee of the manor under the crown, who died in 1615: the epitaph, which is not now to be ſeen, deduced the origin of the Hydes, who were of the Denchworth family, from an anceſtor of the ſame name, to whom that manor had been given by Canute the Dane; the fallacy of this tradition has been elſewhere ſhewn [h].

[b] Pat. 3 Edw. III. [c] Eſch. Car. I. [d] Dugdale's Monaſticon. [e] Dugdale's Baronage. [f] Pat. 1 Edw. IV. [g] From the information of Mr. Gray of Newbury. [h] See the account of Denchworth.

The

The church of Sutton was given by William the Conqueror, to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, and appropriated to that monaſtery. The advowſon of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon, was given to the dean and chapter of Windſor, in the reign of Edward IV. In 1547, the manor of Sutton, deſcribed as late parcel of the poſſeſſions of the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted to Lord Wriotheſley: it is probable that this was the rectorial manor, afterwards given to the dean and chapter of Windſor, under whom it has been held for many generations, by the family of Juſtice. The rectory houſe, now the ſeat of Francis Juſtice eſq. has the appearance of having been a monaſtic reſidence; it is ſaid to have been uſed by the monks of Abingdon, as a place of retirement for their invalids. Some of the rooms retain their original form, and moſt of the windows are ancient.

*Appleford*, a large hamlet in this pariſh, has a chapel of eaſe, with a cemetery: in the chapel are ſeveral memorials for the family of Juſtice. Edmund Bradſtock, founded a free-ſchool at Appleford, and endowed it with lands, for the education of 20 poor children, 13 of whom are to be of Sutton, and ſeven of Appleford.

*Sutton-Wick*, in this pariſh, adjoins to the village of Drayton. The pariſh of Sutton-Courtney, with the hamlet of Sutton-wick, have been incloſed, by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1801, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the impropriator, in lieu of the tithes of Sutton-Wick: the lands in Sutton-Courtney remain ſubject to tithes.

SWALLOWFIELD, in the hundred of Charlton, lies about ſix miles to the ſouth-eaſt of Reading. The manor was anciently in the St. Johns, of Legham, as a member of Shinfield[i], afterwards in the De la Beches[k]. John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, died, ſeiſed of this manor in 1435, and left it, with other large eſtates, to the king, who, in 1443, gave it to John Penicoke, one of the grooms of his wardrobe[l]; at a later period, it was in the family of Backhouſe; Sir John Backhouſe K. B. died in 1649, and lies buried in the chapel; Sir William Backhouſe, his grandſon, died in 1669; his widow married Henry, Earl of Clarendon, who became poſſeſſed of Swallowfield. The celebrated Lord Chancellor, Clarendon, reſided at his ſon's houſe at Swallowfield, after his retirement from public life, and there wrote his great work, "the Hiſtory of the Rebellion." Swallowfield-place was afterwards the ſeat and property of Governor Pitt, generally known by the name of Diamond Pitt, who purchaſed it of Edward, Earl of Clarendon (grandſon of the hiſtorian) in 1719. From the Pitts, the manor and manſion paſſed ſucceſſively

[i] Eſch. Edw. II. and Nomina Villarum. No. 6281, Harl. MSS. Brit. Mus.
[k] Eſch. Edw. III.
[l] Pat. 21. Hen. VI.



to

to the Dods[m] and Beavans: it is now the property and ſeat of Timothy Hare Earle eſq. Swallowfield has a parochial chapel, dependant on the church of Shinfield. *Riſeley* is a hamlet in this pariſh. Farley-hill, in this pariſh, now the ſeat of Rowland Stephenſon eſq. was purchaſed by him of Mr. Dearſley, and was before the property of John Walter eſq. An annual fair is held at Swallowfield on the 9th of June.

THATCHAM, in the hundred of Reading, lies three miles to the eaſt of Newbury, on the road to London; although now only a village, it appears to have been formerly a town of ſome conſequence, as appears from the ſurvey of Domeſday, and other records, in which it is deſcribed as an ancient borough[n], but it does not appear that it ever ſent repreſentatives to parliament. From a very early period, it had a market on Sundays, which was confirmed to the abbot and convent of Reading, by King Henry II's charter[o]: King Henry III. in 1218, altered the market-day to Thurſday[p]: the market has long been diſcontinued. Two annual fairs are ſtill held, the Tueſday after Eaſter week, and the firſt Tueſday after the 29th of September.

The manor of Thatcham was given to the abbot and convent of Reading, by their founder, King Henry I.[q] After the diſſolution of that monaſtery, it was granted, in 1539, to John Winchcombe, ſon of the celebrated Jack of Newbury. Upon the attainder of Henry Lord Bolingbroke, who married one of the coheireſſes of his deſcendant, Sir Henry Winchcombe bart. it was purchaſed, in 1722, of the truſtees, appointed under an act of parliament then paſſed, by James, Duke of Chandos, who conveyed it the ſame year to Brigadier General Waring; from his family it paſſed by bequeſt to the Crofts, who were allied to them by marriage. After the death of Sir John Croft bart. it was ſold by auction, and is now the property of William Mount eſq. of Waſing.

[m] An act of Parliament was paſſed in 1737, to enable the family of Dod to ſell this eſtate, but it appears not to have been ſold till ſome years afterwards. [n] See Brown Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria. [o] Dugdale's Monaſticon.—Markets and fairs were formerly held at many places on Sundays, Good-Friday, and other great faſts and feſtivals, to the great umbrage of pious perſons, who, from time to time proteſted againſt ſo profane a practice. In 1449, it became the ſubject of a petition to parliament; with what ſucceſs does not appear: in this petition (ſee rolls of parliament, temp. Hen. VI.) it is ſaid that an angel appeared to King Henry II. at Cardiff, on the Sunday after Eaſter, warning him to put a ſtop to markets on Sundays and great feſtivals, as recorded in the Polychronicon. In the reign of King Henry III. ſeveral markets were changed, by the king's charter, from Sundays to other days, as was that of Thatcham above-mentioned in the text. [p] Cl. 2 Hen. III. [q] Dugdale.

Dunſtan-Houſe, the ſeat of the Warings and Crofts, deſcribed by Rocque, in 1761, as one of the moſt magnificent manſions in the county, was bought on ſpeculation at the ſale of Sir John Croft's eſtates, and, although in complete repair, pulled down for the ſake of the materials.

The monument of Judge Danvers (mentioned in Aſhmole's Collections) ſtill remains in the pariſh church, but the inſcription and figures have been removed. There are ſome memorials for the family of Fuller, of Chamber-houſe, the late Sir Archer Croft bart. who died in 1792, and his mother, (daughter of Brigadier-General Waring) who died in 1767.

The great tithes of this pariſh belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, by whom they were appropriated to the hoſpital, founded by abbot Hugh[r]: after the reformation, they were annexed to the manor, till the ſale of Sir John Croft's eſtates, when they were divided into lots, many of which were purchaſed by the farmers, who occupied the ſeveral eſtates. The advowſon of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading, had been alſo appurtenant to the manor, till the above-mentioned ſale: it is now veſted in the repreſentatives of the late incumbent, the Rev. Archer Thompſon.

Lady Frances Winchcombe, mother of Lady Bolingbroke, in the year 1707, founded a charity ſchool at this place, and endowed it with 53l. *per annum*. The ſchool, which was intended for the education of children of this pariſh, Bucklebury, and Eaſt-Shefford, had been long diſcontinued, and its revenues loſt to the pariſh; when the late vicar's father, being then the incumbent, very laudably inſtituted a ſuit for their recovery, and, after a long conteſt, had the ſatisfaction of ſeeing his labours crowned with ſucceſs, and the ſchool re-eſtabliſhed, with an income increaſed to 200l. *per annum*: forty boys, 20 of whom are of the pariſh of Bucklebury, are now clothed and educated in this ſchool, and ſix of them are annually apprenticed, with premiums of 10l. each. The ſchool-houſe was a decayed chapel, of the early hiſtory of which nothing can be now aſcertained; it was purchaſed by Lady F. Winchcombe, for the purpoſe of appropriating it to its preſent uſe: at the eaſt end, on the outſide, are two Gothic niches: the ſtreet in which it ſtands is called, in the purchaſe deed, Chapel-ſtreet.

The pariſh of Thatcham is the moſt extenſive of any in the county, excepting Lambourn, containing, according to Rocque's Survey, 11,491 acres: it extends to the town of Newbury, and includes ſome part of its ſuburbs. The principal hamlets are *Midgham*, *Greenham*, and *Crokeham*. Chamber-houſe, Henwick,

[r] Coates's Hiſtory of Reading, p. 279.

Cold-

Cold-aſh, and Colthorp, are alſo in this pariſh. Midgham and Greenham have chapels of eaſe: there was formerly a chapel at Crokeham.

Midgham Chapel was rebuilt by John Hillerſdon eſq. lord of the manor, in 1714. The manor of Midgham had at a more remote period been ſucceſſively in the families of Erle[s], Stokes[t], and Norris[u]. It is now the property and ſeat of William Poyntz eſq. (of the ancient family of that name, at Iron-Acton, in Glouceſterſhire), whoſe father purchaſed it of the Hillerſdons, about the year 1738.

*Greenham*, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, was part of the large property of Henry de Ferrars. At that early period it appears, that it had a church or chapel; in the ſurvey it is called *eccleſia*. Maud, Counteſs of Clare, in the reign of Henry the ſecond, gave the manor of Greenham to the knights hoſpitallers[x], at the ſame time Gervaſe Paynell gave them the village[y]. The hoſpitallers had a preceptory at this place, as appears by a catalogue of Berkſhire gentry, in the reign of Henry VI. among whom is John Prendegaſt, preceptor of the hoſpital of St. John of Jeruſalem of Greenham[z]. About the beginning of Henry IIId's reign, Ralph Lord Muſard had a manor in Greenham[a], which ſeems to have been diſtinct from that of the knights-hoſpitallers. The Sotwells, of Chute, in Wiltſhire, had a ſeat at Greenham, and, it is probable, the manor, during the early part of the 17th century[b]: the manor was afterwards in the noble family of Grey: Brigadier-General Waring purchaſed it, in 1725, of Henry, Duke of Kent. Upon the ſale of Sir John Croft's eſtates, James Croft eſq. who had changed his name from Woodcock, on marrying one of the daughters of Sir Archer Croft bart. bought Greenham, and built a houſe there for his reſidence: the old manor-houſe, near the chapel, has been long occupied as a farm. At Greenham-mills is a large and flouriſhing blanket manufactory.

Reginald Fitzpiers died, ſeiſed of the manor of Crokeham, in 1286[c], King Edward II. granted it to Piers de Gaveſton, who was beheaded at Warwick in 1312. King Edward III. granted it in 1330, to Sir William Montacute, afterwards Earl of Saliſbury, and Katherine, his wife[d]: it continued in this noble family till the death of the unfortunate Margaret, Counteſs of Saliſbury, (the laſt of the Plantagenets,) who was executed in her old age, by command of King Henry VIII. in 1541. The following year the manor of Crokeham (with the tithes of Crokeham-park, which had been incloſed by William, Earl of Saliſbury, in 1337[e],) was granted to William, Earl of Southampton, and his heirs male, with remainder to Lord Herbert, eldeſt ſon of the Earl of Worceſter, and his heirs male[f]. In 1667,

[s] Eſch. Hen. VI. [t] Eſch. Edw. IV. [u] Eſch. Eliz. [x] Dugdale. [y] Ibid.
[z] Fuller's Worthies. [a] Cl. 1 Hen. III. [b] Monumental inſcriptions at Thatcham.
[c] Dugdale. [d] Ibid. [e] Pat. 11 Edw. III. [f] Lord Selſea's papers.

the Marquis of Worceſter being then ſeiſed of the fee of this manor, under a grant of King Charles II. ſold it to the family of Mico. In 1682, it became the property of Sebaſtian Lyford, whoſe grandſon and deviſee, Clement Kent, ſold it in 1729, to Bulſtrode Peachey Knight eſq. uncle of the Right Hon. Lord Selſea, the preſent proprietor. There was anciently a free-chapel at Crokeham, of which there are no remains.

In the year 1447, John Pury, being then Lord of the manor of Chamberhouſe, in this pariſh, had the king's licence to embattle his manor-houſe, and to impark 344 acres of land[g]. From the Purys, Chamberhouſe paſſed, by a female heir, to William Danvers[h], one of the juſtices of the common pleas, who died in 1504, and lies buried in Thatcham church. Nicholas Fuller, a barriſter, and his ſon, Sir Nicholas Fuller knt. both died ſeiſed of this houſe and manor, in 1620[i]. It was purchaſed of their deſcendants, in the early part of the laſt century, by Mr. Lonſdale, whoſe family ſold it, not many years ago, to Sir George Cornwall, bart.: it is now the property of Mr. Richard Tull.

The manor of Henwick was, for a conſiderable time, in the Tippings, and is now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton, and Mary Anne, his wife, the repreſentative of that family. Mr. Mount, of Waſing, gives a deputation for another manor, or reputed manor, in Henwick, as attached to the manor of Thatcham, purchaſed by him at the ſale of Sir John Croft's eſtates.

The manor of Colthorp, or Coldthorp, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, was the property of Brigadier-General Waring, and deſcended with his other eſtates in this pariſh, to the Crofts: it was purchaſed at the above mentioned ſale, by the preſent proprietors, Col. Brooke and John Brooke eſq. It is probable, that the manor of Colecrope, or Coledrope, which belonged ſucceſſively to the Achards and De la Mares[k], was in this hamlet. Mr. Mount appoints a game-keeper alſo for Coldthorp.

TIDMARSH, in the hundred of Theale, lies about ſeven miles nearly to the weſt of Reading, between the Bath and Wallingford roads. The manor belonged anciently to a family, who took their name from the village, and poſſeſſed it for ſeveral generations[l]: it was afterwards ſucceſſively in the Rothwells[m] and Leynhams[n]: of late years it has undergone frequent alienations. Tidmarſh is now the property and ſeat of Robert Hopkins eſq. who purchaſed it of Charles Butler eſq. in 1798.

[g] Cart. 25 and 26 Hen. VI.
[h] Eſch. Edw. II. and Edw. III.
[i] Epitaph in the church.
[k] Epitaph in Aſhmole's Collections.
[l] Eſch. Edw. I.—Rich. II.
[m] Eſch. Jac. I.
[n] Eſch. Edw. IV.

In

In the parish church, which exhibits a curious specimen of ancient architecture [o], is the tomb of Margaret, wife of Thomas Wode, one of the justices of the King's-Bench, and relict of Robert Leynham esq. lord of the manor, in 1499: there are some memorials also for the family of Lynn. Mr. Hopkins is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading: the advowson formerly belonged to Reading abbey.

TUBNEY, in the hundred of Ock, lies about six miles to the south-west of Oxford. The manor was formerly, for a considerable time, in the Corbets [p]; from whom, about the year 1417, it passed, by a female heir, to the Grevilles [q]: a few years afterwards it was in the family of Leynham, or Lenham [r]: in 1482, it was purchased of Margaret Lenham by William de Waynfleet, founder of Magdalen College, in Oxford, and by him given to that society: within this manor are some extensive woods. The rectory is a sinecure, in the gift of the president and scholars of Magdalen College. The church has been long ago destroyed; not a stone of it remains: the site of the church-yard is in a field, not far from Appleton. On the induction of a rector, divine service is performed in the open air.

TYLEHURST, in the hundred of Reading, lies three miles west of Reading, a little to the north of the Bath road. The manor belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, and is supposed to have been granted to the Kendricks, who continued to possess it for several generations. After the death of Sir William Kendrick bart. it passed, in marriage with his daughter and heir, to Benjamin Child esq. who sold it about the year 1759, to the late John Blagrave esq.: it is now the property of a gentleman of the same name, of the family of Blagrave, of Watchfield, near Shrivenham, who married his name-sake's niece and devisee. Calcot-house, the seat of Mr. Blagrave, was built by John Blagrave above mentioned, and has passed with the manor.

Prospect-hill, in this parish, was part of the same estate, and passed, by the marriage of Mr. Child's eldest daughter, to the family of Hill, of whom it was purchased by the present possessor, John Engelbert Liebenrood esq.

In the parish church is a very costly monument to the memory of Sir Peter Vanlore, a rich merchant, who died in 1627, and his lady. Sir Peter was a native of Utrecht, and is supposed to have had a temporary interest in the manor of Tylehurst, by alliance with the Kendricks.

[o] See p. 205. [p] Cart. 7 Edw. III. and Esch. 5 Hen. V. [q] Esch. 5 Hen. V.
[r] Esch. Hen. VI.

The

The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the abbot and convent of Reading. Sir Francis Englefield having, in 1545, purchased the rectories of Tylehurst, St. Mary's, and St. Giles's, in Reading, gave them, in 1556, to their respective churches, for the celebration of masses and obits: having been thus appropriated to superstitious uses, they became forfeited to the crown in the first year of Queen Elizabeth, who, in 1573, granted the great and small tithes of St. Mary's and St. Giles's to the vicars of those parishes [s]: it is stated in Bacon's Liber Regis, that the grant to this place took place in 1586. The Rev. Dr. Sheppard, of Amport, is patron of the endowed vicarage of Tylehurst, which is in the deanery of Reading.

The learned and venerable William Lloyd, who died bishop of Worcester, in 1717, at the age of 90, was a native of this parish: his baptism does not appear in the register, as it does not commence till 1627, just after the date of his birth.

*Theale*, a well-known village on the Bath road, is a tithing within this parish, and gives name to an adjoining hundred: it had formerly a chapel of ease. The Earl of Essex with his army, on their march to London, after the first battle of Newbury, halted for a night at Theale, on the 22d of September, 1643 [t].

Uffington, in the hundred of Shrivenham, lies nearly five miles to the south-east of Faringdon. The manor, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Reading, was granted, by King Henry VIII. to John Malt: it afterwards became the property of Sir Thomas Parry, of whose family it was purchased about the year 1619, by Sir William Craven. William, Earl of Craven, his descendant, is the present proprietor.

In the parish church, which is a handsome structure, in the form of a cross, of the earliest style of Gothic architecture, are memorials of the families of Saunders and Archer. The spire was destroyed by lightning about the year 1750.

The great tithes of this parish were appropriated to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. The impropriate rectory is now the property of John Archer Houblon esq. grandson of the late Mr. Archer: Mr. Houblon is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

*Balking*, in old records written *Badelking*, or *Bethelking*, a considerable hamlet of this parish, with a chapel of ease, was anciently a market town. The market day was changed, by a charter of King Henry III. in 1219, from Thursday to Tuesday [u]. The market was confirmed by a subsequent charter of 1253 [x]. Balking being com-

[s] Coates's History of Reading. [t] Heath's and Vicars's Chronicles. [u] Cl. 3 Hen. III.
[x] Pat. Vascon. 37 and 38 Hen. III.

prised

priſed within the manor of Kingſton-Liſle, has paſſed through the ſame hands [y], and is now the property of Mr. Atkins.

The manor of *Woolſton*, anciently *Wolvericheton*, a large hamlet in this pariſh, with a chapel of eaſe, belonged, from a very early period, to the nuns of Ambreſbury. In 1542, it was granted to Sir Thomas Seymour, the lord admiral; and after his attainder, to Thomas Weldon [z]. Sir Charles Wiſeman died ſeiſed of it in 1626 [a]. It ſeems to have been ſoon afterwards in the family of Tipping, and is now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton, of Woolley-park, and Mary-Anne, his wife, niece of the late Bartholomew Tipping eſq.

The celebrated ancient figure of a White Horſe [b], which gives name to the adjoining vale, was within the manor of Woolſton, before the act of parliament paſſed in 1777, for incloſing certain fields in Uffington, Balking, Woolſton, Kingſton-Liſle, and Farlow: by that act the White Horſe, and the ancient entrenchment on the hill above, were allotted to Lord Craven; and it was enacted, that they ſhould be for ever, from that time, conſidered as lying within, and part of the manor of Uffington. Under this act, allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriator, and to the vicar, in lieu of the tithes of Uffington and Woolſton. The hamlet of Balking, conſiſting chiefly of old incloſures, remains ſubject to tithes. Woolſton and Balking have ſeparate overſeers, and maintain their own poor. Woolſton is about a mile and a half ſouth-weſt, and Balking about the ſame diſtance north-eaſt of Uffington.

Ufton, in the hundred of Theale, lies about ſeven miles to the ſouth-weſt of Reading. At the time of the Norman ſurvey, there were two manors in Ufton, then called Offetune: theſe manors were afterwards diſtinguiſhed by the names of Ufton-Nervets, or Nermits, and Ufton-Greyſhall. It is probable, that the ſame names diſtinguiſhed the two pariſhes of Ufton, which were conſolidated in 1442.

The manor of Ufon-Nervet is ſuppoſed to be the ſame, which at the time of the ſurvey belonged to William Fitz-Anſculf, anceſtor of the Paganels, and in 1316 was held under their repreſentatives the Sometys, by William de Ufton [c]. The manor of Ufton-Greyſhall, as early as the year 1316, belonged to the abbot and

[y] See an account of its proprietors, p. 371. [z] Records in the Augmentation Office. [a] Eſch. Car. I.

[b] See p. 215. To what is there ſaid on this ſubject, it may be added, that this figure is 374 feet in length. It has been ſaid, that lands in the neighbourhood were held formerly by the tenure of cleaning the White Horſe, by cutting away the turf, ſo as to render the chalk more viſible: it is certain, that the neighbouring inhabitants have an ancient cuſtom of aſſembling for this purpoſe, which they term ſcouring the horſe. On theſe occaſions, they are entertained at the expence of the lord of the manor, and keep a kind of rural feſtival, with various appropriate diverſions: the laſt celebrity of this kind took place in 1780. [c] Nomina Villarum, No. 6281. Harl. MSS.

convent of Reading[d], who had another eſtate called Greyſhall, (now Grieſly) in the adjoining pariſh of Sulhamſted-Abbots. In 1603, the manors of Ufton-Greyſhall and Ufton-Nervets were inherited, on the death of Sir Edward Norris, by his nephew, Francis, Earl of Berkſhire[e]. Not long afterwards, theſe eſtates, which are no longer diſtinguiſhed as ſeparate manors, became the property of the Perkins family. On the death of John Perkins eſq. the laſt heir male, in 1769, the manor of Ufton devolved in conſequence of an entail, made by his brother Francis, to John Jones eſq. of Llanarth, who, in 1802, ſold it to William Congreve eſq. of Aldermaſton.

The family of Perkins reſided many years at Ufton-Court. Arabella, wife of Francis Perkins eſq. who died in 1736, was the Belinda of Pope's Rape of the Lock, which is dedicated to her under her maiden name of Fermor; ſhe died in 1738. In the pariſh church, (called Ufton-Nervets,) are ſome monuments of this family. The moſt remarkable is that of Francis Perkins eſq. who died in 1635; this monument, which exhibits the figures of Mr. Perkins and his lady, under an arch ſupported by Corinthian columns, is of chalk. In Aſhmole's Collections, mention is made of a monument for Richard Perkins eſq. and his wife, Lady Mervin, who was a benefactreſs to the pariſh. The ruins of the other church, which it is probable was called Ufton-Greyſhall, are to be ſeen near the river Kennet, within a ſpacious cemetery. The provoſt and ſcholars of Oriel College in Oxford are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Reading: Dr. Beeke, profeſſor of modern hiſtory, in the above-mentioned univerſity, is the preſent rector. An act of parliament, for the incloſure of this pariſh, paſſed in 1804; the lands remain ſubject to tithes.

WALLINGFORD, a very ancient borough and market town, lies on the banks of the Thames, and on the road from Reading to Oxford, at the diſtance of 46 miles from London. There are reaſons for ſuppoſing that this was a town in the time of the Romans, though its ancient name is unknown[f]. Its name of Wallingford, whether derived, as Camden ſuppoſes, from the Britiſh word *Guallen*, or the Roman *Vallum*, owes its origin no doubt to the ancient fortification, with which it is ſurrounded, and its ford over the Thames.

The earlieſt mention of Wallingford in hiſtory is in 1006, when it was deſtroyed by the Danes[g]; it ſeems to have been ſoon afterwards rebuilt, for it appears that Swain, King of Denmark was there in 1013[h]. In the reign of King Edward the Confeſſor, Wallingford was a royal borough; in which there were 276 houſes

[d] Nomina Villarum. [e] Dugdale's Baronage, vol. II. [f] See the introduction to this county, p. 203. [g] Sax. Chron. [h] Ibid.



paying

paying gabel-tax to the crown: the inhabitants of theſe houſes owed the king perſonal ſervice, either on horſeback, or in his navy.

At the time of the Norman invaſion, Wigod, a powerful Saxon, had a caſtle at Wallingford, to which, after the battle of Haſtings, he invited the victorious monarch: the invitation was accepted, and at this place the conqueror received the ſubmiſſion of Archbiſhop Stigand, and the principal barons, before he marched with his army to London. During his abode at this place, he celebrated the marriage of Robert D'Oyley, one of his favourite generals, with the only daughter of Wigod[i]. About the year 1067, the king fearing that his new ſubjects might eſtabliſh a garriſon at Wallingford, as they had already done at Oxford, commanded Robert D'Oyley to build a ſtrong caſtle there: this caſtle was frequently uſed as a ſtate priſon, as will be ſeen in the courſe of its ſubſequent hiſtory: Aldred, abbot of Abingdon, is the firſt perſon on record who was impriſoned in it[k].

Maud, only daughter and heir of Robert D'Oyley, brought the caſtle, town, and honor of Wallingford in marriage to Milo Criſpin, and after his death to her ſecond huſband, Brien Fitzcount, who, being devoted to the intereſt of the Empreſs Maud, immediately on her arrival in the kingdom, fortified Wallingford caſtle, and declared on her behalf[l]. This caſtle afforded her a ſecure retreat, when ſhe eſcaped from Oxford, eluding obſervation, as our hiſtorians[m] relate, by paſſing along the river, then frozen over, in white garments; the ground being at the ſame time covered with ſnow. A priſon in the caſtle called *Cloere Brien* was the place of confinement for ſuch of the king's friends, as fell into the hands of the empreſs and her party. Stephen ſeveral times beſieged this caſtle, but in vain: having built a fort at Cromarſh, on the oppoſite ſide of the river, for the purpoſe of carrying on the ſiege with better effect, Brien Fitzcount diſpatched a meſſenger to the Duke of Normandy, who, coming over with an army to aſſiſt his friends at Wallingford, laid ſiege to the king's fort or caſtle of Cromarſh[n]: Stephen haſtened to its relief, and the two armies were encamped only three furlongs aſunder, when propoſals were made for an accommodation: a peace was in conſequence concluded before the walls of Wallingford in 1153, by the terms of which the fortreſs at Cromarſh was to be deſtroyed at the king's coſt[o]; and Brien Fitzcount to be pardoned and taken into favour. Simon de St. Liz, Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon, one of the zealous oppoſers of the Duke of Normandy's intereſt, died at the ſiege of Wallingford[p].

Before the cloſe of Stephen's reign, Brien Fitzcount took upon him the croſs, abandoned his poſſeſſions, and went to the Holy Land; his wife had before taken

[i] Kennet's Parochial Antiquities. [k] An. 1071. See Kennet. [l] Kennet. [m] M. Paris, W. Hemingford, Knighton, Brompton, &c. [n] Kennet. [o] Gervaſius, (inter Decem Scriptores,) and Mat. Paris. [p] Kennet.

the veil at a convent in Normandy [p]. In conſequence of this event, King Henry II. on his acceſſion to the throne, ſeized into his own hands the honor and caſtle of Wallingford, where, on the following Eaſter, he convened a general council of the biſhops and barons; and cauſed them to ſwear allegiance to him, and his heirs [q].

In the reign of Richard I. in conſequence of an agreement made between Earl John, the king's brother, and the lord chancellor in 1191, Wallingford caſtle, as being a fortreſs of great importance, was delivered into the hands of the archbiſhop of Rouen, a man of approved loyalty, during the king's ſtay in Paleſtine [r]; but when the news arrived of Richard's impriſonment, Earl John took poſſeſſion of this caſtle [s]. The barons, who were in the king's intereſt, beſieged and took it: by a ſubſequent treaty, both parties agreed that it ſhould be put into the poſſeſſion of Eleanor, the Queen Dowager [t].

In 1212, John being then king, met the diſcontented barons of the north at Wallingford, when an apparent reconciliation was effected, and the kiſs of peace given, through the mediation of the Pope's legate [u]. In 1213, the king appointed a meeting at Wallingford, reſpecting the affair of the exiled biſhops [x]. In 1216, the caſtle was put into a ſtate of defence and victualled; Lewis the dauphin, being then in England [y]. In the former part of Henry the IIId's reign, Wallingford caſtle belonged to Ranulph de Blundeville, the brave Earl of Cheſter, who died there in 1232 [z]; when the caſtle and honor came into the poſſeſſion of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, under a grant made by the king two years before [a]. In 1238, an affray happened at Oxford, between the ſcholars of that univerſity, and Otto, the Pope's legate, and his ſuite: ſome of the leaders on both ſides were ſent by William, Earl of Warren, (deputed by the king to ſuppreſs the tumult,) to the priſon, in Wallingford caſtle [b]. The Earl of Cornwall, having repaired the caſtle, is ſaid, by Wikes, to have kept his nuptial feaſt there, on his marriage with his ſecond wife, Senchia, ſiſter of his brother's queen; but the Waverly annals, and Matthew Paris, repreſent this feaſt as having been held at Weſtminſter: in 1245, the earl kept his Chriſtmas at Wallingford, and made a great feaſt for the king, queen, and nobility [c]. In 1264, Prince Edward, the king's ſon, and Henry, ſon of the Earl of Cornwall, then king of the Romans, were ſent priſoners to Wallingford; and ſhortly afterwards the earl himſelf, falling into the hands of the diſcontented barons, became a priſoner in his own caſtle [d]. Richard, king of the Romans, died ſeiſed of the borough of Wallingford, in 1272 [e]: at this time there exiſted, in the borough, a privilege, if privilege it may be deemed, of ſo extraordinary a nature, that, unleſs it were well authen-

[p] Kennet. [q] Ibid. [r] Holinſhed. [s] Ibid. [t] Ibid. [u] Chronicle of Dunſtaple. Matthew Paris, ſays, in 1213. [x] Holinſhed. [y] Ibid. [z] Mat. Paris. [a] 15 Hen. III. [b] Dugdale's baronage, vol. I. p. 77. [c] Kennet. [d] Chronicle of Dunſtaple. [e] Eſch. 56 Hen. III. [f] Kennet.

ticated by records, it would ſcarcely obtain credit. It appears, by an inquiſition taken upon oath, about ten years before the laſt-mentioned date, that, for a firſt offence, of however heinous a nature, a native of this borough might make his option of having his eyes put out, and being otherwiſe mutilated, inſtead of paying the forfeit of his life [f]. This privilege the jury ſtate to have been enjoyed from time immemorial, and that it had been then lately claimed by one Benedict Hervey [g].

In 1272, a few months after his father's death, Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, brought his bride (ſiſter of Gilbert Le Clare, Earl of Glouceſter) to Wallingford, and made a great feaſt for the nobility [h]: the king, his couſin, honoured him with a viſit there, in 1276 [i]. On the death of this earl, without lawful iſſue, in 1300, the caſtle and honor of Wallingford reverted to the crown, and were given, by King Edward II. in 1308, to his favourite, Piers de Gaveſton, whom he created, the ſame year, Earl of Cornwall [k]. In 1309, the earl, having proclaimed a tournament at Wallingford, gave ſuch umbrage, by his inſolence, to the Earl of Lancaſter, and other lords who reſorted thither, that they vowed revenge [l]: the ill-timed indulgence of his maſter encouraged him to irritate them with repeated affronts, till he paid for them with his life, having fallen into the hands of the confederate lords, who, with very little ceremony, beheaded him near Warwick, in 1312.

In 1317, King Edward II. gave the caſtle and honor of Wallingford to his queen, Iſabel [m]: during the civil war between this monarch and the diſcontented nobles, it appears that Roger, Lord Mortimer, of Wigmore, ſurpriſed the caſtle of Wallingford [n]. Maurice, Lord Berkeley, and Hugh, Lord Audley, who had been in arms againſt the king, having been committed priſoners to this caſtle, an attempt was made to releaſe them, in 1323, by Sir John Goldington, Sir Edmund De la Beche, and others, who got into the caſtle by a poſtern, near the Thames [o]. The attempt was fruſtrated; and Sir Edmund De la Beche, a prieſt, (being, probably, the ſame perſon who was afterwards archdeacon of Berkſhire,) was ſent a priſoner to Pomfret.

It appears that, about this time, Wallingford caſtle, being in the hands of the king's enemies, Sir Roger D'Amory was ſent to beſiege it; and that, for 35 days, which he ſpent in the ſiege and ſubſequent defence of the caſtle, after he had ſucceeded in getting it into his poſſeſſion, he received the ſum of 51l. 7s. [p]. Maurice, Lord Berkeley, above mentioned, continued a priſoner at Wallingford, till

[f] The words of the record are, "quod nullus de natione iſtius burgi pro quocunque facto quod fecerit debet ſuſpendi, imo ſecundum conſuetudinem iſtius burgi debet oculis & teſtibus privari; & tali libertate uſi ſunt a tempore quo non extat memoria." [g] See Kennet's Paroch. Ant. p. 258.

[h] Kennet's Paroch. Ant. [i] Chronicle of Dunſtaple. [k] Kennet. [l] Ibid.

[m] Ibid. [n] See Pat. 17 Edw. II. [o] Holinſhed. [p] Kennet.

his death, which happened in 1326[q], in which year the queen kept her Chriſtmas there with great feſtivity, entertaining a great company of knights and barons, her unfortunate huſband being then a priſoner at Kenilworth[r]. King Edward III. gave the caſtle and honor of Wallingford to his ſon, John, of Eltham, Earl of Cornwall, who died in 1334: they were afterwards annexed, by act of parliament, to the duchy of Cornwall, and held by Edward, the Black Prince, and ſome of his ſucceſſors in that duchy. Joan, the fair maid of Kent, widow of the Black Prince, died at Wallingford, in 1385[s]. Towards the cloſe of King Richard IId's reign, the Earl of Wiltſhire, and the king's three confidential ſervants, Buſſy, Bagot, and Green, were made keepers of Wallingford caſtle, which, it appears, had been one of the queen's palaces[t]. King Henry IV. gave the cuſtody of Wallingford caſtle and honor to Thomas Chaucer, ſon of the poet, for life[u]. The Dowager Queen Katharine, widow of Henry V. had a grant of Wallingford, in 1422[x].

When Cardinal Wolſey was about to found a college in Oxford, the king, his maſter, ſeparated the caſtle and honor of Wallingford from the duchy of Cornwall, and gave them to that prelate, as a part of the endowment of his intended college; but, on the cardinal's attainder, it is ſuppoſed that he reſumed the grant[y]. In 1540, an act of parliament paſſed to ſeparate the honor of Wallingford from the duchy of Cornwall, and annex it to the manor of Ewelme, in Oxfordſhire; which, from that time, was to be called the honor of Ewelme, and to have the ſame privileges as the honor of Wallingford had enjoyed.

Leland, who viſited Wallingford about this time, deſcribes the caſtle as having "three dikes, large, deep, and well watered: about each of the two firſt dikes, (ſays he,) are embatteled waulle ſore yn ruine, & for the moſt part defaced; all the goodly buildings, with the toures & dungeon, be within the three dikes." Camden, ſpeaking of this caſtle, ſays, "Its ſize and magnificence uſed to ſtrike me with amazement, when I came thither, a lad, from Oxford, it being a retreat for the ſtudents of Chriſt's Church." This expreſſion has induced moſt writers to ſuppoſe, that the ſite of the caſtle then belonged to that college, which is an error, as will be hereafter ſhewn. "It is environed," continues the learned antiquary, "with a double wall, and a double ditch, and in the middle, on a high artificial mount, ſtands the citadel, in the aſcent to which, by ſteps, I have ſeen a well of immenſe depth." It appears by an inquiſition, taken in the year 1555, that the buildings of the keep were then ſtanding, and that they contained two dungeons, or priſons:

[q] Dugdale's Baronage. [r] Holinſhed. [s] Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, p. 56. of the Introduction. [t] Pat. 23 Rich. II. [u] Pat. 1 Hen. IV. [x] Rolls of Parliament. [y] Browne Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria.

the other buildings of the caſtle ſeem not to have been, at that time, of any great extent [z].

Wallingford caſtle was put into a ſtate of repair, at an early period of the civil war between King Charles and his parliament; and being well garriſoned, was eſteemed one of the moſt important fortreſſes in the king's poſſeſſion [a]. When the Earls of Holland and Bedford deſerted the parliament, they repaired to the royal garriſon at Wallingford [b]. On the 28th of October, 1644, the king's army marched to Wallingford, after the ſecond battle of Newbury [c]. The caſtle eſcaped a ſiege till nearly the cloſe of the war; it was ſurrendered by Col. Blague, the governor, to Sir Thomas Fairfax, in the month of July, 1646 [d], when Adjutant Evelyn was appointed governor for the parliament [e]: the learned Judge Jenkyns was committed a priſoner to Wallingford caſtle the ſame year [f]. It has been ſaid, that Sir Edmund Dunch was appointed, by Cromwell, conſtable or governor of Wallingford caſtle [g]; but the order of council for its demolition, which bears date November 18th, 1652, is directed to Major Evelyn, who appears to have been the only governor, after it came into the poſſeſſion of the parliament. This order, the original of which is in the poſſeſſion of Mrs. J. Wells, of Wallingford, after ſtating, that the council found it neceſſary that as many of the inland garriſons as could be conveniently ſpared, ſhould be forthwith demoliſhed, and that the inhabitants of the county of Berks had petitioned that Wallingford ſhould be one of that number, authorizes Major Evelyn, and others, to proceed in the demolition of the caſtle, and the works and fortifications thereunto belonging, to ſell the materials of the ſaid caſtle and fortifications, as well as of the huts, magazines, and other buildings, erected within the walls, to defray the expence of pulling them down; and directs, that the overplus ſhould be given, according to their diſcretion, for the relief of ſuch poor perſons as had been ſufferers by the garriſon, while it was in the late king's hands. This order was ſo well obeyed, that there is ſcarcely a veſtige of the buildings to be ſeen; part of a wall towards the river being all that remains of this ancient and celebrated caſtle. It is ſaid, that when the Duke of Schomberg, who was eminent for his ſkill in military tactics, went to ſee the ſite of Wallingford caſtle, after having well obſerved the keep, and the reſt of the ground upon which it was ſituated, he declared that, in a little time, he could ſo fortify it, that it would be impoſſible to be approached by an enemy; and that he ſcarcely knew of any place that might be made ſo fit as this, for ſecuring any perſon, in the time of danger or diſtreſs [h]: the keep is now overgrown with trees.

[z] MS. Hiſtory of Wallingford. [a] Clarendon. [b] Ibid. [c] Sir Edward Walker's Hiſtorical Diſcourſes, p. 115. [d] Heath's Chronicle. [e] Weekly Intelligencer.
[f] Ant. Wood. [g] Pamphlet, entitled, "Myſteries of the good old Cauſe."
[h] T. Hearne, in Leland's Collectanea, vol. VI. p. 93.

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The ſite of Wallingford caſtle is ſtill annexed to the honor of Ewelme, under the act of King Henry VIII. William Hucks eſq. is the preſent leſſee; the leaſe has been many years in his family: in the early part of the laſt century, it was in the poſſeſſion of Thomas Renda eſq.[i] who repreſented the borough of Wallingford, in parliament: a brick building, of no great antiquity, within the ſite of the caſtle, is deſcribed in his leaſe as the priſon houſe.

The manor of Wallingford was granted by King James I. to the corporation.

Within the walls of Wallingford caſtle was an ancient college[k], conſiſting of a dean and prebendaries. Ralph de Norwich was collated, in 1217, to the deanery of the king's chapel at Wallingford[l]: Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, who died in 1300, and has been generally deemed the founder, endowed the college with lands and rents for the maintenance of ſix chaplains, ſix clerks, and four choriſters[m]. Its revenues, which were farther augmented by Edward the Black Prince, and King Henry VI. were eſtimated in the reign of Edward VI. at 147l. 8s. 0½d. clear yearly value. Leland, ſpeaking of this college, ſays "the Decane afore Dr. London that now is, buildid a fair ſteple of ſtone, at the weſte ende of the collegiate chapelle, to making whereof, he defaced as it is ſaid, without licence, a peace of the king's lodging, joyning to the eſte end of the chapelle. The decane hath a fair lodging of tymbre within the caſtelle, and to it is joined a place for the miniſters of the chapelle." An inquiſition, taken in 1555, deſcribes the tower ſpoken of by Leland, as 25 feet ſquare, and the chapel of St. Nicholas as 60 feet in length, and 40 in breadth[n]. Dr. London, the laſt dean of this college, was very active in promoting the buſineſs of the reformation, and was one of the commiſſioners appointed by King Henry VIII. to examine into the ſtate of religious houſes.

The ſite of Wallingford college, conſiſting then of the dean's lodgings, the prieſt's lodgings, and the clerk's lodgings, was granted in 1548 to Michael Stanhope and John Bellew, of whom it was purchaſed, the ſame year, by the dean and canons of Chriſt's Church College, in Oxford, as a place of retirement "in times of ſickneſs and viſitation." It appears clearly from what has been ſtated, that they were poſſeſſed of no more than the ſite of the collegiate chapel and its appurtenances. It was during a removal of the college hither, that Camden was at Wallingford, as

[i] MS. Hiſtory of Wallingford, written about the year 1720. A copy of this MS. is in the hands of ſeveral perſons at Wallingford. [k] It is ſomewhere aſſerted, and it ſeems very probable, that this college was founded by Milo Criſpin, Lord of Wallingford, about the year 1100. It is certain that the foundation had taken place ſome time before the year 1217. In the year 1227, Hugh de Bathonia was collated to the church of Stokes, being a prebend of the chapel at Wallingford.—See Pat. 11 Hen. III. [l] Pat. 1 Hen. III. [m] Dugdale. [n] MS. Hiſtory of Wallingford.

before

before mentioned. In the year 1554, the clerks' lodging was let to Thomas Parry esq. and his wife, Dame Anne Forteſcue [o], on condition of their quitting the whole of it, excepting one convenient chamber, at eight days notice, in caſe of the ſickneſs being at Oxford: the ſame conditions were for many years inſerted in all the leaſes [p]. In the civil war, the dean's lodging was utterly demoliſhed, and the whole place ſo altered, that it was difficult to aſcertain the exact boundaries of the college eſtate. The clerks' lodging ſtill remains, and is occupied as a dwelling-houſe; the prieſts' lodging is inhabited by cottagers.

Juſt within the weſt gate of Wallingford, was a convent of Benedictine monks, founded in the reign of William the Conqueror, by Paul, abbot of St. Albans, in the church of the Holy Trinity, which had been then lately given to that abbey, by Geffrey the chamberlain. Cardinal Wolſey ſuppreſſed this, among other ſmall monaſteries, in 1535, and procured a grant of it, intending it as part of the endowment of his new College at Oxford; but on his attainder it reverted to the crown, and was granted in 1547 to John Norris eſq. [q] It afterwards belonged to the family of Molins; and it appears that ſome part of the building remained in 1644, near Clapcote-Houſe, the ſeat of that family [r]. The priory eſtate is now the property of William Hucks eſq. who has a farm-houſe on the ſite.

Without the ſouth gate of the town was a hoſpital for poor men and women, which exiſted as early as the beginning of Edward the firſt's reign. Its revenues were valued in 1535, at 6l. *per annum*: it was dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, and it has been ſuppoſed that it was the ſame which in other records is called, the free chapel of St. John the Baptiſt, in Wallingford [s].

The town of Wallingford was incorporated by King James I. The corporation conſiſts of a mayor and five aldermen, (who are juſtices of the peace within the borough,) a town-clerk, and other officers, choſen out of the burgeſſes, who are 18 in number.

Wallingford ſent members to parliament in the reign of Edward I. The right of election is veſted in the mayor, aldermen, burgeſſes, and inhabitants, paying ſcot and lot. That eminent lawyer, Sir William Blackſtone, who had a ſeat at Wallingford, now the property of his ſon, repreſented this borough in Parliament.

Wallingford is a market-town by preſcription. It appears by the Norman Survey, that, in the reign of William Rufus, the market was held on Saturday; it was afterwards changed to Sunday; and by a charter, bearing date 1218, from that day to Monday [t]. There are now two market-days, Tueſday and Friday; the Tueſday's market is very inconſiderable. There are four annual fairs, the Tueſday

[o] She was relict of Sir Adrian Forteſcue. [p] Records belonging to the dean and chapter of Chriſt's Church. [q] Tanner. [r] Symonds's MSS. Brit. Muſ. [s] See Tanner's Notitia Monaſtica. [t] Cl. 2 Hen. III. See p. 385.

before

before Eaſter, Midſummer-day, Michaelmas-day, and the 17th of December; but the only one much reſorted to, is that held on old Michaelmas-day, which is principally for hiring ſervants: over the market-houſe is a Town-hall, where the ſeſſions for the borough are held. The Michaelmas Seſſions for the county were held here in 1745, Lord Barrington being the chairman: according to the tradition of the town, the aſſizes alſo have occaſionally been held here. The county gaol was in ancient times at Wallingford, from whence it was removed to Windſor: in 1314, the commonalty of the county of Berks preſented a petition to parliament, praying for its removal, ſince its ſituation at Windſor was in a remote part of the county, and ſubject to many inconveniences: a commiſſion was thereupon appointed to inquire what ſituation would be moſt for the king's advantage, and the accommodation of the county [u]. It is probable that the county gaol was then removed to Reading, where it has been fixed from a very remote period. The principal trade of this town conſiſts in malting.

Wallingford is ſuppoſed to have been much more populous than it is at preſent, and its decay has been attributed partly to a great plague, which happened in the reign of Edward III. and partly to the circumſtance of the great road to Glouceſterſhire, and South Wales, having been diverted from its former courſe, through Wallingford, by the building of Culham and Burford bridges, near Abingdon, in 1415 [x]. It is true, as Camden obſerves, that at the making of Domeſday book, there were 276 houſes in Wallingford, which paid the *gabel* tax; but by an attentive examination of that ſurvey, it will appear that the whole number was 304, beſides eight which had been demoliſhed when the caſtle was built; twenty-two out of the twenty-eight, which make up the number, were freeholds, paying a quit-rent to the crown: one was exempt from tax, as being a mint; four others were exempt from various cauſes; and William de Warren had a houſe, for which he paid nothing, the reaſon of which is not aſſigned. Several other houſes are mentioned, as belonging to the manor, but it ſeems clear that they were not ſituated in the town. No means have occurred of obtaining an exact ſtate of the population, at any intermediate time, between this remote period and the year 1801. It is certain that the inhabitants at various times made great complaints of the decay and poverty of the town, in conſequence of which, the fee-farm rent paid to the crown was from time to time diminiſhed, and, at length, by King Henry VII. wholly remitted [y]. Leland deſcribes the town as much decayed in his time; and an inquiſition taken in the reign of Philip and Mary, repreſents it as being then "in greater deſolation and

[u] See Rolls of Parliament, vol. I, p. 300. [x] Camden. [y] MS. Hiſtory of Wallingford.

ruin

ruin than ever it was every manner of way[y]." Unfortunately Wallingford does not occur in ſome notes of the number of inhabitants of the county of Berks, in the Bodleian Library, as taken by order of Cardinal Pole, in 1555; it cannot be aſcertained, therefore, what effect this decay had on the population. According to the returns made to parliament in 1801, the number of houſes appear to have been then 362, and that of inhabitants 1744.

If the town of Wallingford ſuffered ſo ſeverely by the diverſion of one of the great weſtern roads in the 15th century, it may be preſumed that it has received proportionate advantage by the two new turnpike roads which were brought through it ſome years ago, chiefly by means of the zealous exertions of their then repreſentative, Sir William Blackſtone. One of theſe roads leads from Reading to Oxford, a communication having been made acroſs the Thames for that purpoſe, by the building of Shillingford bridge; the other paſſes through the vale of Whitehorſe to Wantage.

An act of parliament, for paving and lighting the town of Wallingford, paſſed in 1795.

Leland, in his Itinerary, ſays it appeared by the donations and patents of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, that there were anciently 14 pariſh churches in Wallingford; and that in his time there were men yet alive, who could ſhew the places were they ſtood. It muſt be obſerved, that the inquiſition taken after the death of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, in 1271, only three churches are mentioned; All-Saints, St. Peter's, and St. Michael's[z]: the taxation of Pope Nicholas, in the reign of King Edward I. omits St. Michael's, and mentions in addition, the churches of the Holy Trinity, St. Mary the great or the more, St. Mary the leſs, St. Martin, and the united churches of St. Leonard and S. Lucian: in the year 1374[a], the churches of St. Mary the leſs, St. Michael, and St. Peter, were united by the king's patent, on account of the poverty of all three: the church of the Holy Trinity was the conventual church of the Benedictine Monks: a record of the year 1452[b], mentions the united pariſh of St. Peter and St. John. The author of the MSS. hiſtory of Wallingford, ſeems to be of opinion that he has ſucceeded in enumerating all the fourteen churches; but in ſo doing, he reckons the collegiate chapel of St. Nicholas within the caſtle, two churches of St John, St. Mary the leſs, St. Peter in the weſt; and a church of which he did not know the name, which ſtood on a plot of ground then in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Weſtall: he ſuppoſes one of the churches dedicated to St. John to have belonged to the hoſpital of that name: indeed it is moſt probable, that there never was more than one parochial church dedicated to that ſaint, which was called

[y] MSS. Hiſtory of Wallingford. [z] Eſch. 56 Hen. III. [a] See pat. 48 Edw. III.
[b] See Kennet's parochial Antiquities.

St. John's *ſuper aquam*: it ſtood in Thames ſtreet, and appears, by the record of 1452 above-mentioned, to have been united to St. Peter's: the chantry roll mentions a *free chapel* of St. John, which might have been the chapel of the hoſpital; in the ſame roll mention is made of the chapel of St. Mary Magdalen. It does not appear, that more than eleven churches have been fairly made out, even including St. Peter's in the weſt, of which no mention has been found on record. The author of the above-mentioned hiſtory ſays, that St. Lucian's church, (which belonged to the priory of St. Frideſwide in Oxford,) ſtood five poles ſouth of the alms-houſe; St. Michael's, was in the way leading to St. Leonard's church; All-Saints was in Caſtle-ſtreet: St. Peter in the weſt, is ſaid to have been in a corner of Kenny-Croft.

Leland ſays there were in his time three mean pariſh churches, but does not mention their names: Camden ſays but *one* or *two* in his time. It ſeems as if neither of the learned antiquarians were quite correct: when Captain Symonds viſited Wallingford in 1644; three churches, St. Mary's, St. Peter's, and St. Leonard's, were ſtanding, and in uſe: All-Saints church, having been diſuſed for more than half a century, had been pulled down the year before by the inhabitants[c]. During the ſiege of Wallingford in 1646, St. Peter's and Saint Leonard's were laid in ruins: St. Leonard's was repaired and opened for divine ſervice about the year 1704: St. Peter's continued in ruins, till the preſent reign; it was rebuilt, principally at the inſtance, and by the exertions of Sir William Blackſtone, who built the ſpire at his own expence, and lies buried in the chancel, with no other memorial, than the family creſt on the ſlab, which covers his remains: the new church was finiſhed in 1769, the ſpire in 1777. In the old church before its demolition, were ſeveral monuments of the family of Molins, as appears by Capt. Symonds's notes, particularly thoſe of Sir Michael Molins, who died in 1615; and Elizabeth Lady Molins, who died in 1622: ſhe was wife of Sir Barentyne Molins, who was made a banneret, under the ſtandard of France, at the ſiege of Amiens, in 1597: Sir Adrian Molins, their anceſtor, married the daughter and heir of R. Court of Makeney, who was auditor to Prince Arthur[d]. This family, ſome of whom appear to have repreſented the borough in parliament, had their ſeat at Clapcoe in the pariſh of All-Saints, on the north ſide of the caſtle, anciently a manor, which belonged ſucceſſively to the families of Bereford[e], and James[f]: the ſite of Clapcote-houſe, which has been long pulled down, belongs to the Rev. Mr. Barker. In St. Peter's church were ſome tombs alſo of the ancient family of James of Wallingford, who repreſented the borough in parliament, in the reign of King Edward III.: the manſion belonging to this family was ſtanding in

[c] Symonds's MSS. Brit. Mus. [d] Berkſhire pedigrees in the Britiſh Muſeum. [e] Eſch. Edw. I. [f] Cart. Ric. II.

1644,

1644, near the bridge. The rectory of St. Peter's is in the patronage of Henry Blackſtone eſq. ſon of Sir William.

The church of St. Leonard exhibits ſome remains of Norman architecture; and, by the arches in its ſouth wall, appears to have been much reduced from its original ſize, by the dilapidations which it ſuſtained in the civil war. The rectory is in the patronage of the crown. St. Mary's, which is the principal church of the town, and ſtands in the market-place, contains no monument worthy of notice: on the tower is the figure of an armed knight on horſeback. The rectory is in the patronage of the crown. The advowſon of All Saints was given by King Richard II. to the dean and chapter of St. Nicholas in Wallingford[g]: the rectory which is a ſinecure, the church having never been rebuilt, ſince it was pulled down in 1643, belongs to the maſter and ſcholars of Pembroke College in Oxford.

Richard de Wallingford, abbot of St. Alban's, a celebrated mathematician and mechanic; and John de Wallingford, a monk of the ſame abbey, who wrote a chronicle, publiſhed by Dr. Gale, are ſuppoſed to have been natives of this town.

There is a free ſchool at Wallingford founded by Walter Bigg, alderman of London in 1659, and endowed by him with 10 l. *per annum*. The preſent maſter has enjoyed his ſituation 52 years. Mr. William Aungear and Mary, his ſiſter, founded an alms-houſe for ſix poor people, about the year 1687: its original endowment which was very ſmall, has been augmented by Job Wells eſq. and Mr. Richardſon.

Wallingford bridge, of great antiquity, is a ſubſtantial ſtone ſtructure, conſiſting of 19 arches: there is a fund of 20 l. *per annum* for its repair, being a rent charge on houſes, which is under the management of two bridgmen, choſen annually out of the burgeſſes.

Laurence-Waltham, in the hundred of Wargrave, lies about five miles to the ſouth-weſt of Maidenhead, about nine eaſt of Reading, and about ten weſt of Windſor. The manor was given, together with the whole hundred of Wargrave, to the ſee of Wincheſter by Queen Emma, mother of King Edward the Confeſſor: the grant ſeems to have been reſumed by her ſon; for in the Survey of Domeſday, all theſe manors are deſcribed; as then belonging to the crown, and are ſaid to have been ſettled by King Edward the Confeſſor on his Queen Editha. It appears by a paſſage in Brompton, that the manor of Wargrave, including, it is moſt probable, Laurence-Waltham and Warfield, was purchaſed of King Richard I. in 1189 by

[g] Dugdale's Monaſticon.

Godfrey de Lucy, Biſhop of Wincheſter, and by him again annexed to the ſee[h]. Biſhop Poynet in 1551, ſurrendered the whole hundred of Wargrave (in which this manor was included) to King Edward VI. who beſtowed it on Sir Henry Neville, one of the gentlemen of his privy chamber: the grant was annulled by Queen Mary, who beſtowed it on the ſee of Wincheſter, of which John White was then biſhop: King Edward's grant was confirmed, and that of Queen Mary annulled, by an act of parliament in the firſt year of Queen Elizabeth[i]. Henry Neville, the laſt heir male of this branch of the family, who had aſſumed the name of Grey, as heir of his maternal grandfather Lord Grey of Werke, died in 1740: on the death of his widow[k], who afterwards had married to her ſecond huſband the Earl of Portſmouth, the manor of Laurence-Waltham, and hundred of Wargrave, were inherited by Richard Aldworth eſq. of Stanlake, whoſe father had married the daughter and heir of Colonel Richard Neville. Mr. Aldworth, on his acceſſion to this property, took the name of Neville, and was father of the Rt. Hon. Lord Braybrooke, the preſent proprietor.

The manors, which are parcel of the hundred of Wargrave, poſſeſs extenſive privileges, under royal grants to the Biſhops of Wincheſter; ſuch as free chaſe, and free warren, exemption from the foreſt laws, and from the expeditation[l] of dogs, &c. &c.[m]

In the pariſh church are ſeveral tombs of the Neville family, among which is that of Sir Henry Neville, grantee of the manor, who died in 1593; he was a younger ſon of Sir Edward Neville, anceſtor of the earl of Abergavenny, who was beheaded by King Henry VIII. in 1538. Sir Henry Neville, ſon of Sir Henry abovementioned, was ambaſſador in France: he had two ſons; Richard Neville, a royaliſt, colonel of a brigade to King Charles I. who died in 1676, and lies buried at Laurence-Waltham; and Henry Neville a celebrated republican writer, author of *Plato Redivivus*, and other political works; who died in 1694, and lies buried at Warfield. Col. Neville's ſon, Henry Neville, who was the laſt heir male of this branch of the family, took the name of Grey, as heir to Ralph, Lord Grey of Werke; he died in 1740, and lies here buried, as does alſo Elizabeth his widow, afterwards Counteſs of Portſmouth. In the church are ſome memorials alſo for the families of Wightwick and Rudge.

The great tithes of this pariſh, which were formerly appropriated to the priory of Hurley, are now the property of Lord Braybrooke, who is patron of the vicarage. In 1803, an act of parliament paſſed for incloſing the manor of Laurence-Waltham, and ſo much of Mr. Vanſittart's manor of Hall as lies within this pariſh: the lands

[h] Decem Scriptores I. 1162. [i] Aſhmole's Berkſhire. [k] *Anno* 1762. [l] See p. 363, note k.
[m] See Aſhmole.

were

were not exonerated from tithes. Laurence-Waltham lies within the deanery of Reading. There is an annual fair at this place on the 11th of Auguſt.

WHITE-WALTHAM, in the hundred of Barnerſh, and deanery of Reading, lies about four miles to the ſouth-weſt of Maidenhead, and about eight weſt of Windſor.

The manor of White-Waltham, *alias* Berry in Waltham, was part of the endowment of Sir William Truſſell's College at Shotteſbroke: George Throckmorton, who perhaps was warden of that College [n], ſurrendered it to the king in 1543 [o]. It has long been annexed to the manor of Shotteſbroke, and was purchaſed with it by the anceſtor of Arthur Vanſittart eſq. M. P. the preſent proprietor, in 1716. Mr. Vanſittart has alſo the manor of Smewins in this pariſh, purchaſed by his anceſtor of Mr. Henry May, the ſame year in which he bought White-Waltham of the repreſentatives of Francis Cherry eſq. This manor had alſo belonged to Mr. Cherry, before it became the property of Mr. May: and the manor-houſe was for ſome time the reſidence of the learned Henry Dodwell [p]. This houſe, which ſtood within a moated ſite, was an ancient ſeat of the family, from whom it derived its name; and tradition ſays that it was the country houſe of Prince Arthur, ſon of King Henry VII [q]. In the early part of the ſeventeenth century, it was in the Norris family; Elizabeth Counteſs of Kelly, daughter of Sir John Norris, died ſeiſed of it in 1621 [r]: this lady had alſo the manor of Heywood in White-Waltham [s], which belonged to the priory of Littlemore in Oxfordſhire, and had been granted in fee-farm to her father [t]: after her death it appears to have paſſed to the Whitmores, of whom it was purchaſed, in 1627, by the anceſtor of John Sawyer eſq. the preſent proprietor. Sir Conſtantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, who married one of the Sawyer family, lived ſeveral years at Heywood-houſe [u].

A manor in this pariſh, which for a ſeries of years [x] had belonged to the Windſor family, acquired from them the name of Windſors: William Lord Windſor, by his will, bearing date 1558, bequeathed it to his ſon Sir Edward [y]. This eſtate, no longer called a manor, was purchaſed in the early part of the 17th century by Mr. Gardiner, together with a manſion, called Hill-houſe, which was let in 1653 to Sir Paul Neile, ſon of the Archbiſhop of York. William Neile, ſon of Sir Paul, who occupied this houſe after his father, fitted up an obſervatory here, for carrying on his aſtronomical

[n] William Throckmorton, warden of Shotteſbroke College, died in 1535; Robert Vere was warden, when the college was diſſolved in 1545. [o] Records in the augmentation office. [p] Hearne's notes reſpecting White-Waltham, &c. annexed to the 5th vol. of Leland's Itinerary. [q] Ibid. [r] Eſch. Jac. I. [s] Ibid. [t] Fee-farm rolls in the augmentation office. [u] T. Hearne, in his notes to the Chronicle of Dunſtaple, vol. I. 255. [x] Inquiſitions of the Fienes family temp. Edw. II. and Edw. III. [y] Collins's peerage.

ſtudies. Hearne ſpeaks of him as a man of ſingular talents, and particularly eminent for his ſkill in mathematics and philoſophy: he died in 1670, being then gentleman of the privy chamber to King Charles II. and lies buried at Waltham, where is a monument to his memory. This houſe and eſtate were ſold in 1671, by the Gardiners, to Edward Pownall eſq.: Mr. Cherry purchaſed it in 1684: in 1700, it became by marriage the property of Mr. Hayes, father of the late James Hayes eſq. ſome time one of his Majeſty's juſtices for Wales, who was born at Hill-houſe. After ſome intermediate alienations, the eſtate was purchaſed, in 1744, by James Theobald eſq. who changed the name of the manſion from Hill-houſe to Waltham-place: about the time of Mr. Theobald's purchaſe, the houſe was in the occupation of the late Earl of Bute [z]. In 1773, Waltham-place was ſold to the Rev. Mr. Reid: it is now the property and ſeat of George Grant eſq. whoſe father purchaſed it of Mr. Reid in 1776.

John de Fienes who died in 1321, was ſeiſed of the manor of Wolvely or Wolly in this pariſh, and the advowſon of the free chapel of that name, which was held under Richard de Windſor [a]. The manor and chapel are called, in writings, by the name of Wolvely or Wolly Fynes: the chapel has been long in ruins; the manor is the property of Dr. Loveday, whoſe family acquired it by purchaſe from the coheireſſes of John Finch eſq. in 1703: it is now called the manor of Fienes or Feens.

In the pariſh church are the monuments of Sir Edmund Sawyer, one of the auditors of the Exchequer, who died in 1676, (father of Sir Robert Sawyer, Attorney-General to King James II. who was diſplaced by that monarch in 1687,) and that of Sir Conſtantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, (grandfather of the firſt Lord Mulgrave,) who died in 1723.

The great tithes of White-Waltham, which had been appropriated to the abbey of Chertſey, and afterwards given, with the other eſtates of that monaſtery, to Biſham abbey, when it was reſtored by King Henry VIII., having paſſed through various hands after the reformation, became the property of Mr. Theobald; and, having been divided into lots, were purchaſed at the ſale of his eſtates, by the ſeveral land owners: Mr. Vanſittart is patron of the vicarage.

An entry in the pariſh regiſter, bearing date 1652, records, that "Mr. John Blower was vicar of this pariſh of White-Waltham, the ſpace of 67 years; namely, from that of our Lord 1577, to the year of our Lord 1644, as appeareth from the time of his induction to the time of his death." It is ſaid, that he removed hither from another benefice; and that, when he died, he was nearly 100 years of age.

[z] See Simpſon's Engliſh Traveller, publiſhed in 1746.

[a] The inquiſition is printed in Bib. Top. Brit. Berks.

A ſtory

A ſtory is told of him, that, preaching before Queen Elizabeth, he addreſſed her by the appellation of "my Royal Queen;" which, a little while afterwards, he changed for "my Noble Queen."—"What!" ſays her majeſty, (in a ſort of whiſper, it is to be ſuppoſed,) am I ten groats worſe than I was?" The pun being overheard by the preacher, he was ſo diſconcerted, that he reſolved never to preach another ſermon, and for the future always ſubſtituted one of the Homilies.

Thomas Hearne, the celebrated antiquary, by whom the above ſtory is related [a], was a native of White Waltham, being the ſon of Mr. George Hearne, the pariſh clerk: he was born in the month of July, 1678, as appears by the regiſter.

There is no aſſemblage of houſes near the church: thoſe belonging to the pariſh are principally ſituated at Waltham-Street, Paley-Street, Littlewick-Green, and Littlefield-Green.

WANTAGE, anciently *Wanating*, or *Wanting*, a conſiderable market town, 60 miles from London, gives name to the hundred in which it is ſituated: the ancient appellation is ſtill retained in the name of the hundred.

King Alfred, who was born at Wantage [b], then one of the palaces of the Saxon kings, gave the manor by will to his wife, Ealſwith [c], daughter of Ethelred, Earl of Mercia, who ſurvived him four years, and died in 904: when the Norman Survey was taken, it was part of the royal demeſne. King Richard I. having granted it to Baldwin de Betun, Earl of Albemarle, the earl gave it, in frank marriage, to William de Valence [d], Earl of Pembroke, whoſe eldeſt daughter and coheir brought it to Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk [e]. In or about the year 1215, this earl gave the manor of Wantage to Fulk Fitzwarren [f], a Norman baron, whoſe family poſſeſſed it for ſeveral generations. Sir Richard Hankeford, who married the heireſs of the Fitzwarrens, left an only daughter, Anne, who became the wife of Sir William Bourchier, afterwards ſummoned to parliament as Lord Fitzwarren [g]: his grandſon was created Earl of Bath. One of the coheireſſes of the laſt Earl of Bath, and Lord Fitzwarren, (who died in 1630,) brought the manor of Wantage to the Wreys: Sir Bourchier Wrey bart. ſold it to the Doyleys. It is now the property of Samuel Worthington eſq. whoſe uncle, Mr. Giles, purchaſed it of the truſtees of the Earl of Bradford, a lunatic. The manor and hundred of Wantage were anciently held of the manor of Hampſted-Marſhall, in this county [h].

The manor of Brians, or Wantyng-Bryan, belonged, in the 15th century, to the family of Andrew [i], afterwards to the Hungerfords [k], and is now the property of William Stirling eſq. who purchaſed it of the family of Boot.

[a] In his notes relating to White Waltham, printed in Leland's Itinerary, vol. V.
[b] Aſſerius de Rebus geſtis Alfredi, p. 3. [c] Alfred's Will, printed at Oxford, in 1788, from a MS. in the poſſeſſion of the late Thomas Aſtle eſq. [d] Dugdale's Baronage, I. 63.
[e] Dugdale. [f] Ibid. [g] Ibid. [h] See Pat. 10 Hen. VI. [i] Eſch. Hen. VI.
[k] Eſch. Mar.

The manor of *Charlton*, a conſiderable hamlet in this pariſh, was for many years in the Carews[l]. It is now the property of J. P. Baſtard eſq. M. P. in right of his wife, relict of the late Mr. Wymondeſold.

Speed, on the authority of a catalogue of religious houſes, aſcribed to Gervaſe, of Canterbury, who flouriſhed in the reign of King John, makes mention of a priory of black nuns, at a place called the Ham, in Berkſhire[m], ſuppoſed to be Ham-Houſe, in this pariſh, now the property of Mrs. Walcot, daughter of the late John Price eſq. who inherits alſo, from her father, a leaſehold eſtate, held under the dean and chapter of Windſor, called the manor of Priors: no mention of the priory of the Ham is to be found on record.

The Yates, of Buckland, had an eſtate in this pariſh, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, called the manor of Fotteſwick[n].

*Grove*, a hamlet of Wantage, was given to the prior and convent of Bermondſey, in 1142[o].

Wantage is a market town, by preſcription; the market day is Saturday. There are four annual fairs; the firſt Saturday in March, the firſt Saturday in May, July 18th, and October 17th: there is a ſtatute fair, alſo, on the 11th of October: a fair, on the tranſlation of St. Thomas the Martyr, was granted by King Henry III. in the thirtieth year of his reign[p]. The town is governed by a chief conſtable. Round the old market croſs is the following inſcription: "Pray for the good Earl of Bath, & for good maſter William Barnabe, the builder hereof, 1580, & for William, Lord Fitzwarren[q]."

It appears, by an enumeration of the inhabitants of Wantage, made by order of Cardinal Pole, in 1555, that they did not then exceed 1000: Mr. Pearce, in his agricultural ſurvey of Berkſhire, in 1794, calculates them at 2100. In the returns made to parliament, in 1801, the whole number of inhabitants in the pariſh is ſtated at 3043, of which 2339 were in the town, 60 in the hamlet of *Weſt-Lockinge*, 247 in Charlton, and 397 in the hamlet of *Grove*. The inhabitants of Wantage are chiefly employed in the manufacture of coarſe cloth and ſacking.

After the king's army quitted Reading, in the month of May 1644, they were quartered for ſome days in and about Wantage[r]: on the 20th of November the ſame year, the king lay at Wantage[s].

The pariſh church is a ſpacious and handſome Gothic ſtructure, in the form of a croſs, built either wholly, or in part, by the benefactions of the Fitzwarren family. In the roof are the arms of Fitzwarren, and the royal arms; in the north aiſle

[l] Eſch. Hen. VI. Edw. IV. &c. [m] See Speed and Tanner. [n] Eſch. Eliz.
[o] Manning's Survey, vol. I. p. 190. [p] See Cart. 30 Hen. III. [q] Capt. Symonds's MSS. Brit. Muſ. [r] Sir Edward Walker's Hiſtorical Diſcourſes, p. 13. [s] Ibid. p. 120, 121.

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are Hankeford, quartering Fitzwarren; Archbiſhop Bourchier's arms; and Bourchier impaling Fitzwarren. In the chancel is an altar-tomb, which has the effigies of one of the Fitzwarrens, with the order of the garter, ſuppoſed to be that of Sir Fulk Fitzwarren, who has been called the founder of the church; but it may be obſerved, that Sir Fulk is known to have been buried at Whittington. Perhaps it might have been intended for Sir William Fitzwarren, who was alſo a knight of the garter, being the 47th in ſucceſſion from the firſt inſtitution of the order; Sir Fulk Fitzwarren was the 51ſt. Againſt the wall of the north aiſle is a braſs figure of Sir Ivo Fitzwarren, deſcended from a younger branch of the ſame family, who died, ſeiſed of ſome lands in Wantage, in the year 1414. This Sir Ivo attended the Earl of Buckingham, in his expedition to the coaſt of France, and was with him at the ſiege of Nantes[t]. In the church of Wantage are memorials alſo for the families of Wilmot of Charlton, and Grove of Grove. Capt. Symonds, who viſited this church in 1644, makes mention of a tomb of Richard Davy, the public executioner, who died in 1493, with the effigies on a braſs plate of himſelf and his wife, and an hatchet, as emblematic of his office.

When the ſurvey of Domeſday was taken, Peter, the biſhop[u], poſſeſſed two thirds of the rectory: William, the deacon, held the other third under the king. John Duke of Bedford, regent of France died, ſeiſed of the rectory of Wantage, in 1436[x]: it was afterwards appropriated to the dean and chapter of Windſor, to whom it ſtill belongs. William Henry Price eſq. has a portion of tithes in the tithing of Bryan's fee: the dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon. An act of parliament paſſed in 1803, for incloſing the pariſh of Wantage, and the hamlet of Grove; the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

In the pariſh regiſter at this place is the following remarkable entry, "September 1598—A ſtrange miracle! The 19 daye was buried two men children, growing together from the breſt to the navells, having all their right members eache of them, being the children of John Ruſſell and Elizabeth his wife."

Leland mentions Wantage as being remarkable for having two churches in one church-yard; one of the churches which he ſpeaks of is an ancient building, now uſed as a ſchool; the north door is of Norman architecture[y].

In the year 1598, an act of parliament paſſed, for veſting the town lands of Wantage, given in the reigns of Henry VI. and Henry VII. for charitable uſes, in twelve of "the better ſort of inhabitants," to be deemed a body corporate, and to uſe a common ſeal. By this act, the revenues of the ſaid lands are appropriated

[t] Dugdale. [u] The only biſhop of this name, in the reign of William Rufus, was Peter, biſhop of Litchfield. [x] Eſch. 14 Hen. VI. [y] See p. 205.

to the relief of the poor, the repair of highways, and the ſupport of a grammar-ſchool. An Engliſh ſchool has from an early period been added to the other charitable objects, provided for out of the profits of theſe lands. The governors allow 30l. *per annum* to the maſter of the grammar-ſchool, who muſt be a graduate in one of the univerſities, and 15l. *per annum* to the maſter of the Engliſh ſchool.

Mr. Robert Styles, in 1680, founded and endowed an alms-houſe for 12 poor perſons, who receive 3s. 6d. a week each.

In this town was born the learned Joſeph Butler, biſhop of Durham [z]: his nephew is now one of the oldeſt inhabitants of Wantage, and a governor of the town lands.

WARFIELD, in the hundred of Wargrave, lies about eight miles to the ſouth-weſt of Windſor, and four miles and a half north-eaſt of Wokingham.

The manor of Warfield is the property of Lord Braybrooke: its hiſtory is exactly ſimilar to that of Laurence-Waltham.

The ancient family of the Stavertons, whoſe burial place is in the north aiſle of the chancel, had an eſtate in this pariſh, called Staverton's manor: the heireſs of this family married Henry Neville, the political writer, who, having no iſſue, bequeathed this eſtate to his nephew, Grey Neville, ſome time one of the repreſentatives in parliament for the county of Berks. The ſeat of the Stavertons, (now a farm houſe,) was called Healy, or Heathly-Hall: the manor is now the property of Lord Braybrooke, who has another eſtate in this pariſh, formerly called the manor of Warfield, or Newenham, in Warfield, which belonged to the Norris [a] family.

Warfield-Grove, the ſeat of Sir John Coxe Hippeſley bart. was purchaſed by him of the late Admiral Sir George Bowyer.

In the pariſh church are ſeveral monuments of the Stavertons: Henry Neville, the republican writer already mentioned, lies buried in their aiſle.

The rectory of Warfield, which had been appropriated to the priory of Hurley, was granted, in 1547, to Richard Cecil [b]: Humphrey Harte died ſeiſed of it in 1557 [c], ſoon after which it became the property of the Terry family, in whom it has ever ſince continued: they are patrons alſo of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading.

At New Bracknell, in this pariſh, are three annual fairs; April 25, Auguſt 22, and October 1.

WARGRAVE, which gives name to a hundred, lies on the banks of the Thames, about ſeven miles north-eaſt of Reading, and three miles and a half from Henley, in Oxfordſhire. It had anciently a market on Mondays, granted in 1218, to Peter

[z] Biograph. Brit. [a] Eſch. Edw. IV. and Eliz. [b] Records in the Augmentation Office.
[c] Eſch. Ph. and Mar.

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de Rupibus, biſhop of Wincheſter[d]. The manor and hundred were given to the ſee of Wincheſter, by Queen Emma, mother of King Edward the Confeſſor: they are now the property of Lord Braybrooke, having paſſed in the manner already mentioned under Laurence-Waltham.

In this pariſh, at the diſtance of three miles from the village, is Culham-Court, the ſeat of the Hon. Frederick Weſt, pleaſantly ſituated on the banks of the Thames, over againſt Buckinghamſhire. The manor of Culham, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, belonged to the family of Neville[e]: it was ſome time ago the property of Serjeant Stevens, and afterwards of Robert Michell eſq. one of whoſe daughters was Mr. Weſt's firſt wife. Within the plantations at Culham is Roſe-Hill, a houſe built in the Chineſe ſtyle, by Governor Hart, now the property of Mr. Weſt, and in the occupation of Mrs. Rowe.

The manor of Bear-Place, in this pariſh, is the property and reſidence of Moſes Ximenes eſq. who purchaſed it about the year 1780, of the Hon. Capt. Hamilton. It had previouſly been in the families of De Grey and Silver, and is ſaid to have been formerly in the A'Bears, a family ſtill exiſting, and ſuppoſed to be of great antiquity; but their names are not to be found at the Heralds' College, nor among the Tower Records. Bear-Hill was, in 1746, the ſeat of Lady Preſton[f].

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the family of Stevens, and of the Aldworths, paternal anceſtors of Lord Braybrooke: there is a monument alſo for Mr. Thomas Day, author of Sandford and Merton, and other publications: he loſt his life by a fall from his horſe, as he was riding from his houſe, in Surrey, to his mother's at Bear-Hill, in this pariſh. It is inſcribed with the following epitaph: "In memory of Thomas Day eſq. who died September 28, 1789, aged 41 years; after having promoted, by the energy of his writings, and encouraged, by the uniformity of his example, the unremitted exerciſe of every public and private virtue."

"Beyond the reach of Time, or Fortune's power,—
Remain, cold ſtone, remain, and mark the hour—
When all the nobleſt gifts which Heaven ere gave,
Were center'd in a dark, untimely grave.
Oh! taught on Reaſon's boldeſt wings to riſe,
And catch each glimmering of the opening ſkies;
Oh! gentle boſom! Oh! unſullied mind!
Oh! friend to truth, to virtue, to mankind;
Thy dear remains we truſt to this ſad ſhrine,
Secure to feel no ſecond loſs like thine."

[d] Cl. Rot. 2 Hen. III. [e] Eſch. Eliz. [f] Simpſon's Engliſh Traveller.

The verſes were written by himſelf, for ſome other occaſion, and placed here by his widow, who thought them peculiarly applicable to his own character.

The rectory of Wargrave, which had been appropriated to the abbot and convent of Reading, was granted, by King Edward VI. to Richard Cecil: Lord Braybrooke is the preſent impropriator, and is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading.

Dr. William Derham, author of the well-known work, entitled Phyſico-Theology, was vicar of Wargrave from 1682 to 1689[g].

Hare-Hatch and Kiln-Green are in this pariſh.

Mr. Aldworth, in 1692, charged the impropriate rectory with the payment of 5l. *per annum*, for the education of poor children of this pariſh. Mr. Robert Pigott, in 1796, gave the intereſt of 6700l. 3 *per cent.* Bank Annuities, for the inſtruction and clothing of 20 boys and 20 girls, of this pariſh: a part of the annual income is appropriated, very judiciouſly, by the will of the benevolent donor, to be paid in weekly allowances to the parents, to operate as an encouragement to them to ſend their children regularly to ſchool, and continue them there a proper time: the allowances are to increaſe gradually, during five years, if the children ſhall ſo long continue in the ſchool.

WASING, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies eight miles to the ſouth-eaſt of Newbury. The manor, which had belonged to the college of Le Vaux, near Saliſbury, was granted, by King Henry VIII. in 1543[h], to Sir Humphrey Forſter, of Aldermaſton, in whoſe family it continued till the year 1607[i]: it is probable, that it was then purchaſed by John Blacknall eſq. who died ſeiſed of it in 1625. The heireſs of Mr. Blacknall married Sir Ralph Verney, anceſtor of the late Earl Verney. The manor of Waſing is now the property of William Mount eſq.; his father bought it, in 1760, of Mr. Coope, who had purchaſed it of the Verney family. The manor houſe, a handſome modern building, is a conſpicuous object from the Bath road: adjoining to it is the pariſh church, a ſmall ancient ſtructure, the inſide of which has been lately modernized, and very neatly fitted up. Mr. Mount is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

WELFORD, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about ſix miles from Newbury, on the road to Lambourn: the manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, is now the property of John Archer Houblon eſq. grandſon of the late John Archer, deſcended from John Archer, ſome time one of the barons of the

[g] Biograph. Brit. [h] Pat. 35 Hen. VIII. [i] Papers in the poſſeſſion of William Congreve eſq. of Aldermaſton.

exchequer,

exchequer, whoſe ſon ſettled at Welford, in conſequence of his marriage with the daughter and heir of Richard Jones eſq. of that place. Abraham Jones, his grandfather, the firſt of his family who ſettled at Welford, was ſon of Sir Francis Jones, alderman of London[k]. Welford was the ſeat of the late Mr. Archer, who had large property in this county.

In the pariſh church[l] are memorials of the family of Mundy, and the monument of Anne, daughter of Sir William Read, who died in 1585: ſhe was firſt married to Sir Adrian Forteſcue, and afterwards to Sir Thomas Parry.

The Rev. Henry Sawbridge, the preſent incumbent, is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury. Thomas Sheafe, rector of Welford, who died in 1639, at the age of fourſcore, publiſhed, a ſhort time before his death, a work, entitled "A Plea for Old Age[m]." The parſonage houſe is at *Wickham*, a hamlet of this pariſh, where is a chapel of eaſe.

The ſurvey of Domeſday deſcribes two churches at Welford, and one at *Weſton*, a large hamlet belonging to this pariſh, on the road to Lambourn. In the year 1364, John Aubrey conveyed to John de Cokkyng, and his heirs, the manor of Weſton, which he had purchaſed of Sir William Perey[n]. This manor in Queen Elizabeth's time was in the Hungerfords[o], afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Moore of Fawley[p], and Jones of Ramſbury: it is now, by inheritance from the latter, the property of Sir Francis Burdett bart.

*Eaſton*, another hamlet of this pariſh, belonging to Mr. Archer Houblon, lies on the road to Newbury. The hamlet of *Benham-hoe* is alſo in this pariſh: the manor of Benham-Hoe *cum* Benham-Lovell, is the property of John Archer Houblon eſq. having of late years paſſed with the manor of Welford: Mr. Houblon claims alſo a manor in Weſtbrook, as appurtenant to this manor. Benham-Lovel, formerly a ſeparate manor, took its name from the ancient family of Lovel: it was held by the ſervice of keeping a pack of dogs *(canum deynectorum)* at the king's expence for the royal uſe[q].

OLD WINDSOR, in the hundred of Rippleſmere, lies about two miles ſouth-eaſt of New Windſor. It appears to have been an ancient town, which at the time of the Norman ſurvey had 95 houſes, paying *gabel* tax to the crown[r]. The manor belonged to the Saxon kings, who are ſuppoſed to have had a palace at Old Windſor, from a very early period. It is certain that King Edward the Confeſſor ſometimes kept his court here[s]: he afterwards gave the manor to the abbot and convent of

[k] Berkſhire Pedigrees, Brit. Muſ. [l] See p. 205. [m] Ant. Wood. [n] Cl. Rot. 38 Edw. III. [o] Eſch. Eliz. [p] Eſch. Jac. I. [q] Blount's Tenures. [r] See the ſurvey of Domeſday, "*centum hagæ, quinque minus.*" [s] See Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 53.

Weſtminſter.

Weſtminſter. King William the Conqueror procured it again from that monaſtery, by exchange, and it appears that, even after the building of Windſor Caſtle, the palace of Old Windſor was occaſionally inhabited by the kings of England, till the year 1110, when King Henry I. having completed ſome additional buildings at the caſtle, which it is probable was at firſt intended merely as a military poſt, kept his court there for the firſt time at Whitſuntide[t]; after this, it is ſuppoſed that Old Windſor ſoon loſt its conſequence. The manor of Old Widſor was confirmed, in 1328, to Oliver de Bordeaux, who at the ſame time procured the king's licence to impark his wood of Foli-john in the foreſt, and a charter of various privileges, particularly that all the lands which he had purchaſed of John de London ſhould be out of the regard of the foreſt[u]. Theſe lands were held, it appears, by the ſervice of finding a man with a lance and dart, to attend the royal army[x]. It is probable that the manor of Old Windſor was afterwards in the Truſſells, and ſurrendered by them to the crown, in 1325[y]: it was held on leaſe under the crown, by the Powney family, as early as the year 1607: in 1786, the leaſe was purchaſed of the late Mr. Powney, by Henry Iſherwood eſq. who died in 1797; and it is now veſted in his ſon, Henry Powney Iſherwood, a minor.

The ſite of the royal palace at Old Windſor is not known, but it is probable that it was at a farm of Mr. Iſherwood's, which is ſurrounded by a moat. The preſent manor-houſe was ſome time in the occupation of his royal highneſs the Duke of Glouceſter, and afterwards of Lady Holland: it is now in the tenure of Sir John Harrington bart.

The manor of Shaw, in Old Windſor, which it is probable had anciently been part of the demeſnes of the crown, was in the reign of Edward III. the property of William Palmorna, who ſurrendered it to that monarch: it has ever ſince been held on leaſe under the crown. In the reign of King Henry VIII. the leaſe was granted to Ralph Goodyer, of whom it was purchaſed by William Harvey, Norroy king of arms. At a later period it was on leaſe for many years to the family of Aldworth, and is now held by their repreſentative Lord Braybrooke.

In the pariſh church are ſeveral memorials of the family of Michel, anceſtors of John Michel eſq. a great benefactor to Queen's College in Oxford, and of the Powneys; among the latter are the monuments of Penyſton Powney eſq. who died in 1758, and his ſon, Penyſton Portlock Powney, the laſt of the family, who died in 1794. They both repreſented the borough of New Windſor, in ſeveral parliaments; the father was for ſome time one of the repreſentatives of the county.

[t] Sax. Chron. [u] Pat. 2 Edw. III. [x] Pat. 5 Edw. II. [y] See Pat. 19 Ed. II.

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The rectorial manor of Old Windſor, which had been ſucceſſively appropriated to the monaſteries of Waltham Abbey, Chertſey, and Biſham, became veſted in the Powneys ſoon after the reformation, and having been ſold in 1786, together with the leaſe of the Crown Manor, now belongs to Henry Powney Iſherwood eſq.: the vicarage, which is within the deanery of Reading, is in the gift of the crown.

A great part of Windſor Park is in this pariſh, including three lodges, all now occupied by his majeſty's domeſtics; the great lodge was built in the reign of Charles II. and was much improved by the Earl of Portland, and the Ducheſs Dowager of Marlborough, who ſucceſſively enjoyed the office of ranger. It was afterwards the reſidence of the illuſtrious William, Duke of Cumberland, who died in 1765, and of his royal highneſs the late Duke of Cumberland, his majeſty's brother. The little lodge or dairy, as it was ſometimes called, was the reſidence of the late Thomas Sandby eſq. the architect, who enjoyed the office of deputy ranger. This office is now enjoyed by General Harcourt, who reſides at St. Leonard's-hill. The lodge at the entrance of the Park, near the Virginia water, which is called in Rocque's map the manor-lodge, is occupied only by ſervants.

Beaumont lodge, the late manſion of Henry Griffith eſq. now of Lord Viſcount Aſhbrook, was purchaſed by Mr. Griffith, of Warren Haſtings eſq. ſome time Governor-General of Bengal. This place, which in Rocque's map is called Bowman Lodge, was originally built by Lord Weymouth, who died in 1705: it was afterwards the Ducheſs of Kent's; the Duke of Roxburgh bought it for his ſon Lord Beaumont, from whom it ſeems to have acquired its preſent name.

Holly-Grove, in this pariſh, which was encloſed from the waſte in 1773, became the ſeat of Andrew Snape Hamond eſq. who, being deſcribed of this place, was created a baronet in 1783. Sir A. S. Hamond, who is now comptroller of the navy, ſold Holly-grove in 1788, to —— Johnſton eſq. It has ſince undergone ſeveral alienations, and is now the ſeat of —— Mackay eſq.

A villa, built in the Gothic ſtyle by Mr. Richard Bateman, uncle of Lord Bateman, is now occupied by the Dowager Baroneſs Onſlow. Other villas of principal note are, Old Windſor Lodge, the ſeat of William Webber eſq. Penel Place, the ſeat of James Bonnel eſq. and Woodſide-houſe, the ſeat of the Rev. Dr. Ogilvie. *Cow-worth*, a kind of ſcattered hamlet, on the farther ſide of Windſor Park, is in this pariſh.

NEW-WINDSOR, a market and borough town, 22 miles from London, firſt roſe to conſequence by the removal of the royal reſidence, from Old-Windſor, which took place in the reign of Henry I.

When the ſurvey of Domeſday was taken, New-Windſor, if indeed there was then

any thing more than the caſtle, was neither a pariſh nor manor. The caſtle, which had been then lately built by William the Conqueror, was within the manor, and it is probable within the pariſh of Clewer, of which Windſor was formerly a chapelry: it afterwards became the ſeat of an extenſive honor.

We are told that William the Conqueror kept his Whitſuntide at Windſor in 1071 [z]; that a ſynod was held there in 1072, wherein the province of York was made ſubject to Canterbury [a]; that William Rufus kept his Whitſuntide at Windſor in 1095 [b], his Chriſtmas in 1096 [c], and his Eaſter in 1097 [d]; but it is moſt probable, that all this applies to the palace at Old Windſor. Windſor Caſtle ſeems to have been intended by William the Conqueror more for a military poſt, for which by its ſituation it was well adapted, than for the reſidence of himſelf and his ſucceſſors.

King Henry I. certainly kept his Chriſtmas at Old Windſor, in 1105 [e], and his Eaſter in 1107 [f]: but having enlarged the caſtle, "with many fair buildings," he removed his court to New Windſor; and for the firſt time kept the feſtival of Whitſuntide at Windſor Caſtle in 1110 [g]. This monarch was married at Windſor to his ſecond Queen, Adelaide or Adelicia, daughter of Godfrey Duke of Lovaine, in 1122 [h]; in 1127, he kept his Whitſuntide at Windſor, when David King of Scotland, and the Engliſh barons, ſwore fealty to the Empreſs Maud, the king's daughter [i]. It does not appear that Windſor Caſtle ſuſtained any ſiege in the wars between Stephen and the empreſs; but upon the peace, this caſtle being then eſteemed, as to its importance, the ſecond fortreſs in the kingdom, was committed to the ſafe cuſtody of Richard de Lucy [k]. King Henry II. kept his Eaſter at Windſor, in 1170, at which time he entertained William King of Scotland, and his brother David, who came to congratulate him on his return from Brittany [l]. In 1175, the two kings, Henry and his ſon, held a parliament at Windſor [m]; Henry the father, kept the enſuing Chriſtmas there [n]: in 1179, the two kings held another parliament at Windſor, in which the kingdom was divided into four juriſdictions [o]; Henry II. kept his Chriſtmas at Windſor, for the laſt time, in 1184 [p]: his ſon who had ſhared the throne with him being then dead.

When King Richard I. went to the Holy Land, it appears that Hugh Pudſey, biſhop of Durham, whom he had appointed one of the governors of the realm during his abſence, had the cuſtody of Windſor Caſtle, which his ambitious colleague William Longchamp, biſhop of Ely, the Lord Chancellor, obliged him to ſurrender, retaining him in priſon, until he had complied with his demands [q]. Upon the agreement which took place in 1191, between Earl John and the Lord Chancellor, the king being ſtill in Paleſtine, Windſor Caſtle was delivered in truſt to the Earl of

[z] Sax. Chron. [a] Holinſhed. [b] Ibid. [c] Eadmer. [d] Sax. Chron. [e] Ibid. [f] Ibid. [g] Ibid. [h] Ibid. [i] Sax. Chron. and Kennet's Parochial Antiquities. [k] Holinſhed. [l] Ibid. [m] Ibid. [n] Ibid. [o] Ibid. [p] Ibid. [q] John Bromton.

Arundel [q]. When the news arrived, two years afterwards, of King Richard's impriſonment, John took poſſeſſion of this caſtle, which was ſoon afterwards ſurrendered to the barons, who were in the king's intereſt [r]: by a ſubſequent treaty it was put into the hands of Eleanor the Queen Dowager [s].

Maud, daughter of Reginald de St. Walery, and wife of William de Braoſe, a potent baron, having eſcaped from a caſtle in the county of Meath in Ireland, was taken by King John in the Iſle of Man, and ſent priſoner to Windſor Caſtle, where, as our hiſtorians relate, for her reſolute behaviour, ſhe and her ſon were miſerably famiſhed to death [t]. King John kept his Chriſtmas at Windſor, in 1212 [u]: in 1215, he betook himſelf to this caſtle, as a place of ſecurity, the barons being in ſuch power, that he did not venture to quit his retreat, till after the ſignature of Magna Charta; which took place on the 15th of June that year, at Runneymede, between Windſor and Staines, the barons, having refuſed the king's ſummons, to attend him in his own caſtle [x]: the king remained at Windſor ſome time afterwards. The war breaking out afreſh, the caſtle was garriſoned the next year by William Earl of Saliſbury; and Faukes de Brent [y]; it was cloſely beſieged by a large army, under the command of the earl of Nivernois, but without ſucceſs, being bravely defended by Capt. Inglehard de Achie, with a party of only 60 ſoldiers [z]. It appears, that a new barbican or out-work was built to the caſtle by King Henry III [a]. In 1263, or according to Matthew Paris 1264, during the wars between that monarch and his barons, Prince Edward garriſoned Windſor Caſtle with foreigners, who nearly deſtroyed the town, and did much injury to the country round about [b]: the ſame year it was given up to the barons, and the king made an order that Eleanor, wife of Prince Edward, with her daughter and all her houſehold, ſhould without delay, retire from the caſtle [c]. The ſame hiſtorian tells us, that it was ſhortly afterwards again garriſoned for the king, and given up by Prince Edward to Simon de Montford, Earl of Leiceſter [d], who ſeems to have placed Geffrey de Langele there as governor; for on the patent roll of the year 1263, appears a ſafe conduct for this Geffrey, who had held Windſor Caſtle againſt the king [e]. On the ſame roll is the appointment of Sir Drugo de Barentine, as keeper of the caſtle; and a ſummons for him and other knights, who had defended it, to attend the king in London, on important buſineſs: the caſtle was never long out of the king's hands: the chief citizens of London were committed priſoners thither in 1265, till they had made their peace, by the payment of large fines, for their adherence to the Earl of Leiceſter, and the rebellious barons [f].

[q] Holinſhed. [r] Ibid. [s] Ibid. [t] Holinſhed and Kennet's Parochial Antiquities.
[u] Holinſhed. [x] Ibid. [y] Ibid. [z] Mat. Paris. [a] Eſch. Hen. III.
[b] Holinſhed. [c] Pat. 48 Hen. III. [d] Mat. Paris. [e] Pat. 48 Hen. III.
[f] Holinſhed.

A great tournament was held in Windſor park, on the 9th of July in the ſixth year of King Edward I[g]. That monarch, and his ſucceſſor, King Edward II. reſided frequently at Windſor, where ſeveral of their children were born. Their illuſtrious ſucceſſor was called Edward of Windſor, from this his native place[h]: in his reign, John, King of France, taken at the battle of Poictiers in 1357, and his ſon Philip, were priſoners in Windſor Caſtle on their parole, having the liberty of taking the diverſion of hunting and hawking at their pleaſure[i]: David, King of Scotland, is ſaid to have been a priſoner there at the ſame time[k].

All our hiſtorians agree, that Windſor Caſtle owes its magnificent fabrick to the affection which King Edward III. bore to the place of his nativity. Walſingham relates, that in 1344, he built a chamber, which he calls the round table, 200 feet in diameter; this, by other accounts appears to have been only a temporary ſtructure. Holinſhed tells us, that in 1359, "the king ſet workmen in hand, to take down much old buildings belonging to the caſtle of Windſor, and cauſed divers other fair and ſumptuous works to be ſet up in and about the ſame caſtle, ſo that almoſt all the maſons and carpenters that were of any account within the land, were ſent for, and employed about the ſame works;" but it appears, that various commiſſions for appointing ſurveyors, and impreſſing workmen, had been iſſued ſome years before; and that in 1356, William of Wickham, then one of the king's chaplains, was made clerk of the works, with ample powers, and a fee of one ſhilling a day, whilſt at Windſor, and two ſhillings when he went elſewhere upon buſineſs; his clerk had a ſalary of three ſhil-

[g] This appears from a roll among the records in the Tower, containing the account of Admettus the taylor, of ſums of money expended by him, on this occaſion chiefly at Paris, to the amount of 440l. 9s. 5d. ſterling. Armour, and all neceſſary accoutrements were provided for thirty-eight knights, among whom were Earl Warren; Edmund, Earl of Cornwall; the Earl of Lincoln; the Earl of Glouceſter, and Don Alphonſo, ſon of the King of Spain.

[h] The following record of the birth and baptiſm of this monarch, occurs on the clauſe roll of the ſixth year of King Edward II.

"Memorand. qd Iſabella Regina Angl. Conſors Regis Edwardi Fil. Regis Edwardi in Caſtro ip'ius Regis de Wyndeſore Die Lune px poſt feſtū S'ci Martini in Hieme Anno gre Milleſimo Tricenteſimo duodecimo ac Regni ip'ius Regis Sexto peperit Filiū ſū primogenitū, qui in Capella Sancti Edwardi in eodem Caſtro Die Jovis-p'xio ſequenti, per Ven'abilē Prēm D'num A. Dei Gra. TT. Sce Priſce Preſbit'm Cardinale *, baptizatus fuit. Et fuerunt ejus Compatres, Videlt, Ven'abiles pres R. Pictaven. D'ni Pape Cam'ar†. J. Bathon. et Wellen‡. W. Wygorn' § Dei Gra. Epi, D'nus Lodowicus Comes Devreux, Johēs de Britann' Comes Richemund, et Adomarus de Valencia, Comes Pembroch, Hugo Le Deſpenſer. Cl. Rot. 6 Edw. II. m. 22 dorſo."

[i] Holinſhed. [k] Camden.

* Arnaldas Noveli, a Gaſcon, the Pope's Vice-Chancellor. † R. Biſhop of Poictiers, Chamberlain to the Pope. ‡ John of Drokensfend, biſhop of Bath and Wells, keeper of the king's wardrobe and afterwards lord high treaſurer. § Walter Reynolds, biſhop of Worceſter, and Lord High Chancellor, afterwards Archbiſhop of Canterbury.

lings a week. In 1359, the architect's powers were ſtill further enlarged, and he was appointed keeper of the manors of Old and New Windſor. The next year 360 workmen were impreſſed, to be employed on the buildings at the king's wages, ſome of whom having clandeſtinely left Windſor, and engaged in other employments for greater wages, writs were iſſued to prohibit all perſons from employing them, on pain of forfeiting all their goods and chattels, and to commit ſuch of the workmen as ſhould be apprehended, to Newgate. The plague having carried off a great number of the king's workmen, in 1362, writs were iſſued to the ſheriffs of ſeveral counties, to impreſs 302 maſons and diggers of ſtone, to be employed in the king's works. The counties of York, Salop, and Devon, were to furniſh 60 men each. Glaziers were impreſſed in the year 1363, very few commiſſions were iſſued after the year 1369, and none after 1373, ſo that it may be preſumed that this noble work was then completed, compriſing the king's palace, the great hall of St. George, the lodgings on the eaſt and ſouth ſides of the upper ward, the round tower, the chapel of St. George, the canons' houſes in the lower ward, and the whole circumference of the walls, with the towers and gates.

The appeal of high treaſon, brought by the Duke of Lancaſter againſt Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, in 1398, was heard by King Richard II. on a ſcaffold erected within the caſtle at Windſor, when it being found impoſſible to reconcile them, a day of combat was appointed to take place at Coventry[l]. The Earl of Saliſbury and other lords, who conſpired againſt King Henry IV. ſoon after his acquiſition of the crown, were for a ſhort time in poſſeſſion of Windſor Caſtle[m]. The caſtle continued to be the occaſional reſidence of our monarchs, who from time to time made various alterations in the buildings, particularly King Henry the Seventh. No remarkable events occur, connected with its hiſtory, for many years before the period of the unhappy civil war, in the reign of King Charles the Firſt.

Windſor Caſtle was garriſoned by the parliament, ſoon after the breaking out of the war, and Col. Venn, who afterwards was one of the king's judges, was appointed the governor[n]; Prince Rupert made an unſucceſsful attack upon it, in the autumn of 1642[o]. The caſtle continued in the hands of the parliament during the whole war, and in the year 1648, became the priſon of its unfortunate monarch, who, as Heath expreſſes it, kept his ſorrowful and laſt Chriſtmas at Windſor[p]. Major-General Browne, who had been governor of Abingdon, a very active officer in the parliamentary ſervice, having fallen under the diſpleaſure of his employers, was ſent priſoner to Windſor Caſtle in 1648[q]. Judge Jenkyns was for ſeveral years a priſoner in this caſtle, from whence, in 1656, he was removed to Wallingford[r]: about this time Sir John Lenthall was governor of the caſtle, under

[l] Holinſhed. [m] Ibid. [n] Heath's Chronicle and Vicars. [o] Vicars. [p] Heath's Chronicle. [q] Ibid. [r] Ant. Wood.

Cromwell[t]. In the month of December 1659, Col. Ingoldſby and Major Wildman having appeared before Windſor Caſtle with a party of horſe, it was ſurrendered to them by Col. Whichcote, who was then governor, for the uſe of the parliament[u]. The Earl of Lauderdale, the Earl of Lindſey, and Lord Sinclair, who had been confined four years in Windſor Caſtle, were diſcharged in the month of March 1660[w].

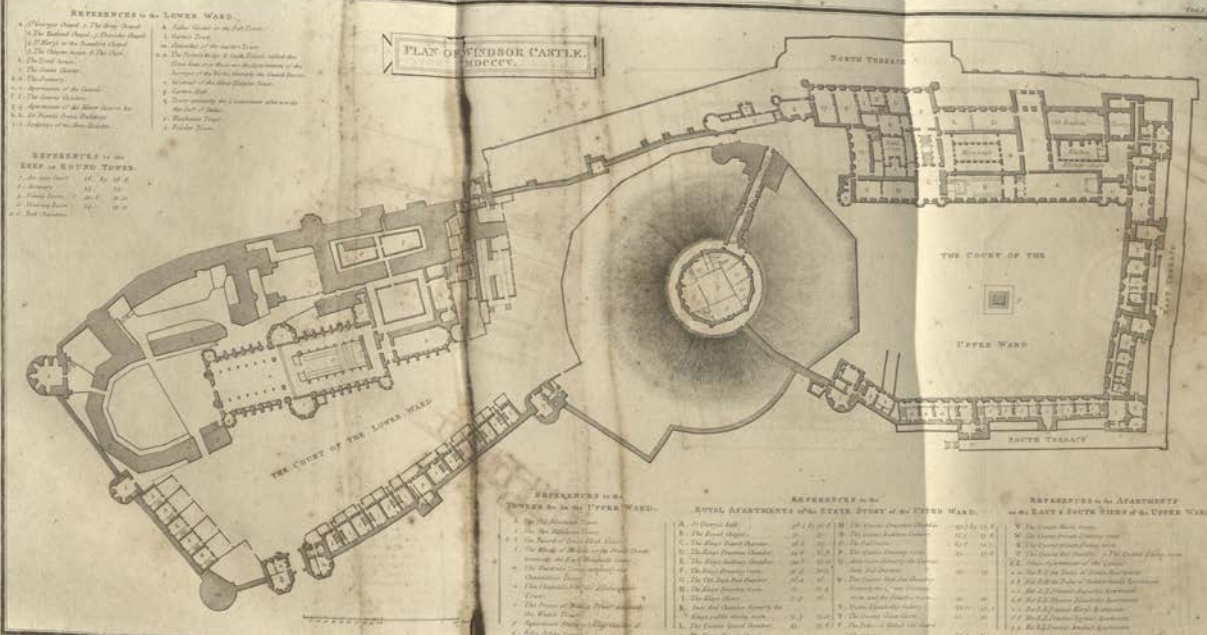
Upon the reſtoration, King Charles II. finding the buildings of the caſtle much dilapidated by plunder and neglect, cauſed it to be thoroughly repaired and richly furniſhed. During the greater part of his reign, he made Windſor his ſummer reſidence[x]. King James II. in 1687, received the Pope's Nuncio at Windſor Caſtle, with great ſtate and ceremony, to the no ſmall umbrage of his proteſtant ſubjects[y]. King William III. reſided there occaſionally. Queen Anne, who, when Princeſs of Denmark, lived in a ſmall houſe adjoining the little park, was very partial to Windſor. During the two ſucceeding reigns, Hampton-Court and Kenſington were the favorite royal reſidences.

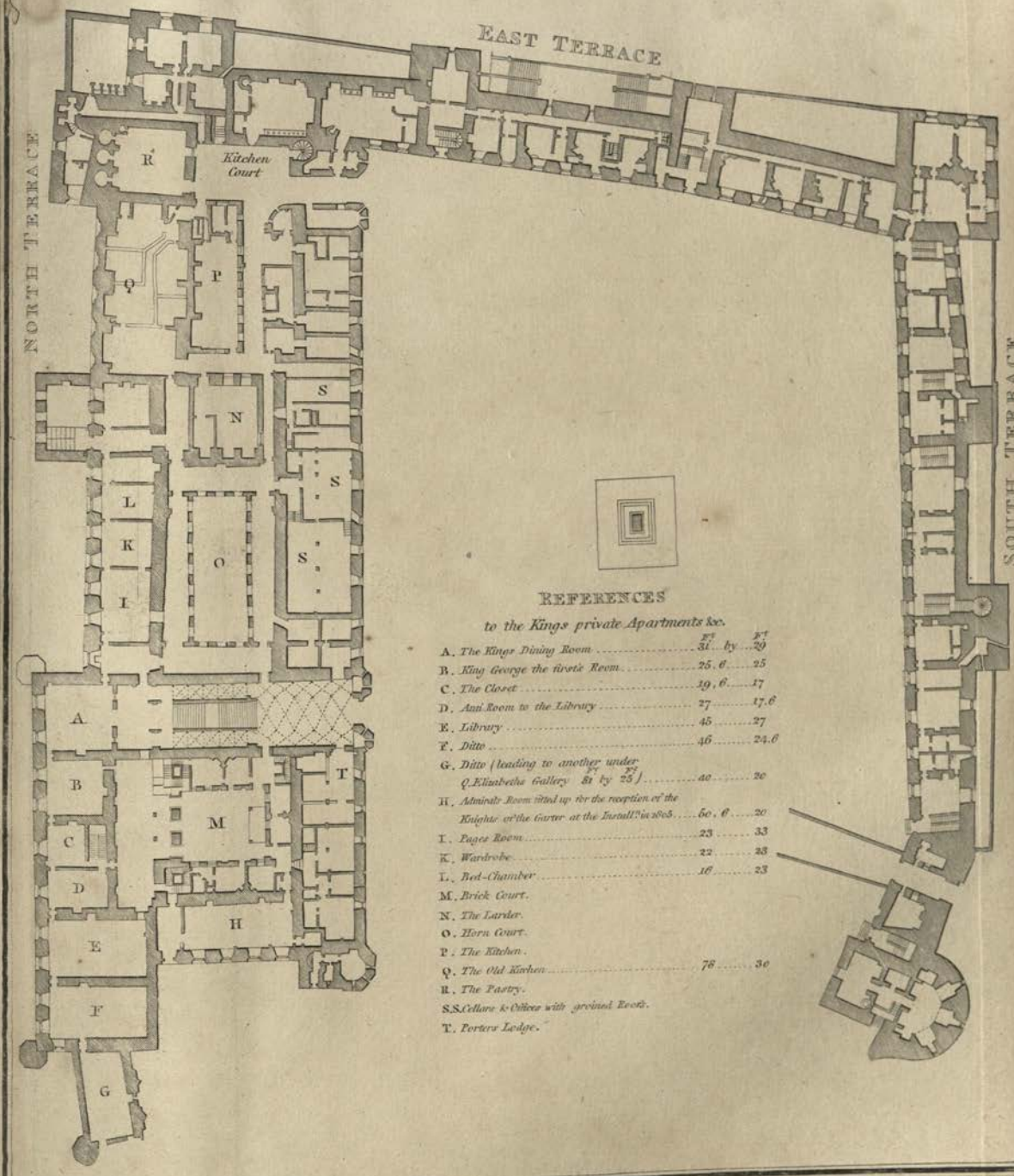
His preſent Majeſty, who has always ſhown himſelf partial to this beautiful ſpot, has recently removed his reſidence from the Queen's Lodge to the caſtle, the buildings of which have been of late much improved, under the ſuperintendance of James Wyatt eſq. Surveyor-General of his Majeſty's works. Theſe improvements conſiſt chiefly in the reſtoration of Gothic architecture, in thoſe parts of the building which had been modernized in the reign of Charles II. The grand ſtair-caſe which has lately been completed, is very magnificent; the roof and lanthorn are highly enriched with Gothic tracery. The chapel of the caſtle, and other parts of the building, are about to be fitted up in the ſame ſtyle.

Windſor Caſtle, conſiſts of two courts or wards, between which is the keep or round tower, ſometimes called the middle ward. The upper court contains on the north ſide the ſtate apartments, chapel, and the hall of St. George. The eaſt and ſouth ſides have been lately fitted up for the reſidence of their majeſties and the royal family. It is foreign from the intention of this work, to enter into a minute deſcription of the ſeveral magnificent rooms, which conſtitute the ſtate apartments[z], or the valuable collection of pictures which they contain. Among the moſt remarkable of thoſe which have long decorated the caſtle, are the beauties of King Charles the ſecond's court, the moſt celebrated naval heroes of the ſeventeenth century; and the two miſers by Quintin Matſis, the blackſmith of Antwerp. The celebrated hiſtorical pictures of the embarkation of King Henry VIII. at Dover, his interview with Francis I. of France, and the battle of the Spurs, together with a picture of King Henry VIII. and his family, have been lately removed from Windſor, and graciouſly

[t] Ant. Wood. [u] Whitlocke's Memorials, p. 693. [w] Mercurius Politicus.
[x] Hiſtory of Windſor. [y] Ibid. [z] The names and dimenſions of the ſeveral apartments will be beſt underſtood by the annexed plan.

depoſited


PLAN OF WINDSOR CASTLE.
MDCCCV.
NORTH TERRACE
THE COURT OF THE
UPPER WARD
SOUTH TERRACE
THE COURT OF THE LOWER WARD




## REFERENCES

*to the Kings private Apartments &c.*

| | Ft. | by | Ft. |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. *The Kings Dining Room* | 31 | by | 29 |
| B. *King George the firsts Room* | 25.6 | | 25 |
| C. *The Closet* | 19.6 | | 17 |
| D. *Anti Room to the Library* | 27 | | 17.6 |
| E. *Library* | 45 | | 27 |
| F. *Ditto* | 46 | | 24.6 |
| G. *Ditto (leading to another under Q. Elizabeths Gallery 81 by 25)* | 40 | | 20 |
| H. *Admirals Room fitted up for the reception of the Knights of the Garter at the Install.n in 1805* | 60.6 | | 20 |
| I. *Pages Room* | 23 | | 33 |
| K. *Wardrobe* | 22 | | 23 |
| L. *Bed-Chamber* | 16 | | 23 |
| M. *Brick Court.* | | | |
| N. *The Larder.* | | | |
| O. *Horn Court.* | | | |
| P. *The Kitchen.* | | | |
| Q. *The Old Kitchen* | 78 | | 30 |
| R. *The Pastry.* | | | |
| S.S. *Cellars & Offices with groined Roofs.* | | | |
| T. *Porters Lodge.* | | | |

PLAN OF THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE UPPER WARD IN WINDSOR CASTLE.

MDCCCV.

Published Jan.y 1. 1806, by Thos. Cadell & Wm. Davies.

depoſited by his majeſty in the meeting-room of the Society of Antiquaries. Some of the moſt valuable pictures from the queen's houſe in St. James's Park, have been recently removed to Windſor; among theſe are Guido's celebrated picture of Venus attired by the Graces; a well-known "Holy Family," by Rubens; King Charles the firſt on horſeback, with the Duke D'Epernon; another of the ſame monarch ſitting, with his queen; and a family piece of his children, all by Vandyke. His Majeſty is about to remove his library alſo, (the moſt complete and valuable perhaps that ever was formed by an individual,) from the queen's houſe to Windſor.

In the king's public dining-room are ſome beautiful carvings of fruit, fiſh, and fowl, by Gibbons. In a cloſet of the queen's dreſſing-room is the banner of France, preſented every year by the Duke of Marlborough, on the 18th of Auguſt, by which tenure he holds Blenheim-houſe, built at the public expence, as a reward for his anceſtor's great ſervices, during a war with that nation. The ſtate-chapel is painted by Verrio, and has ſome beautiful carving by Gibbons: this chapel is about to be fitted up in the Gothic ſtyle.

St. George's-Hall was built by King Edward III. as a refectory for the knights companions of the Garter: it is a noble room, 108 feet in length; the ceiling and walls are painted by Verrio, the ſubjects, conſiſting chiefly of the triumphs of the warlike founder, and his brave ſon, Edward, the Black Prince.

The origin of this illuſtrious order has been attributed, by tradition, to the trivial circumſtance of the Counteſs of Saliſbury dropping her garter at a ball; but that ſtory has been effectually exploded by Aſhmole, and other writers, who have treated expreſsly and amply on this ſubject. It will be ſufficient for the purpoſe of this work to ſtate, that King Edward III. in the year 1349, inſtituted a military order, or ſociety, (as the words of the ſtatutes expreſs it,) within his caſtle of Windſor, of which the king of England was to be always the ſuperior, or ſovereign: the number of the knights companions, excluſive of the ſovereign, was 25, being perſons of illuſtrious rank, or great military proweſs, who had ſerved with their monarch, in the wars of France.

It was provided, by one of the ſtatutes of the order, that the knights companions ſhould, with their ſovereign, if it could be conveniently done, celebrate the feſtival of their patron, annually, in Windſor Caſtle: in the early days of the order, this feſtival was kept there with great ſolemnity, and a magnificent diſplay of tilts and tournaments, to which all foreigners were invited, under the protection of a ſafe conduct, particularly in the year 1358, when it was kept with more than uſual ſplendour, in honour of John, King of France, then a priſoner in the caſtle: the duke of Brabant, and many other noble and illuſtrious foreigners were preſent; the queens of England and Scotland, and a great number of female nobility, both Engliſh and foreigners. At theſe feaſts the knights performed their devotions, according to the ſtatutes of

the order, in St. George's chapel, built by the founder for that purpoſe: the dinners were in the great hall, if the ſovereign was preſent; if the feaſts were held during his abſence in foreign parts, they dined in the great guard-chamber: theſe ſolemn annual feſtivals were held, with few interruptions, for nearly two centuries. The new ſtatutes, made in the reign of King Henry VIII. precluded the neceſſity of their holding the feſtival of St. George at Windſor; but it was, nevertheleſs, kept there during the reign of that monarch, and occaſionally by his ſucceſſors, with much ſplendour, although the reformation which had taken place in religion, neceſſarily abridged much of the magnificence of the devotional part of the ſolemnity.

Queen Elizabeth kept the feſtival of St. George at Windſor, with great ſtate, in the year 1563; and to heighten the ſplendor of the ſolemnity, ſhe cauſed peace to be, at the ſame time, proclaimed between England and France. It was determined a few years afterwards, that this feſtival ſhould not in future be kept at Windſor, unleſs there was a knight to be inſtalled. After this determination, the feaſt of St. George was kept wherever the court happened to be, by holding chapters of the order, and making ſolemn proceſſions of the ſovereigns and knights companions. It may ſerve to give ſome idea of the magnificence of theſe ſolemnities in ancient times, to mention that in the year 1616, it was decreed, that each of the knights companions ſhould have 50 perſons, and no more, to attend upon his perſon, at the yearly ſolemnity of the feaſt of St. George. By the late conſtitution of the order, the number of knights companions was 25, excluſively of the ſovereign and his ſons. In the month of January, 1805, it was determined by the ſovereign, that the number of knights companions ſhould be 25, excluſively of foreign princes; in conſequence of which four new knights were elected to make up that number: the inſtallation of theſe knights, and ſome others, who had not before been inſtalled, took place the enſuing St. George's day, which was celebrated with much ſplendour and magnificence, being the firſt time that any ceremonial had been obſerved on that feſtival at Windſor, ſince the above mentioned determination, which took place in the reign of Queen Elizabeth[a]. To be admitted a companion of this illuſtrious order, has ever been conſidered as the higheſt honour which the king can beſtow upon a ſubject; and there is ſcarcely an European ſtate or nation, whoſe ſovereigns have not thought it an acceſſion to their dignity, to be enrolled among the number: the biſhop of Wincheſter is prelate, the biſhop of Saliſbury chancellor, and the dean of Windſor regiſtrar of the order of the Garter. The chief officer in the Herald's college is ſtyled Garter, principal king of arms, from the connection which his office has with this order[b]: the uſher of the black rod is alſo conſidered an officer. The office of

[a] From the information of Sir Iſaac Heard, Garter, principal king of arms.

[b] The Garter, principal king of arms, has, in right of his office, a tower, in the lower ward of Windſor Caſtle.

prelate of the Garter was annexed to the ſee of Wincheſter, at the firſt inſtitution of the order: the office of chancellor was granted, by King Edward IV. in 1475, to Richard Beauchamp, biſhop of Saliſbury, and his ſucceſſors. In the reign of Edward VI. Sir William Cecil was made chancellor of the order, and the office was given, for many years, to laymen; but was reſtored to the ſee of Saliſbury, on the application of Biſhop Ward, in 1669. The office of regiſtrar, which had been before occaſionally held by the deans of Windſor, was annexed to the deanery in 1635.

To return to a deſcription of the caſtle:—In the area of the upper ward is a bronze ſtatue of King Charles II. on horſeback, executed by Stada, at the expence of the munificent Tobias Ruſtat, formerly houſekeeper at Hampton-Court: the fruit, fiſh, and other ornaments on the pedeſtal, are eſteemed very fine: underneath this ſtatue is a water engine, of a curious conſtruction, invented by Sir Samuel Morland, maſter of the mechanics to King Charles II. for the purpoſe of ſupplying the palace with water from Blackman-Park, near Winkfield: the palace is now ſupplied from the Thames. On the north ſide of the caſtle is the Terras, made by Queen Elizabeth, which was extended, by King Charles II. along the eaſt and ſouth ſides, its whole length being 1870 feet; forming the nobleſt walk of the kind in Europe, as well as the moſt intereſting in point of ſituation.

The chapel of St. George, already mentioned, is ſituated in the lower ward of the caſtle. King Henry I. built a chapel at Windſor, dedicated to St. Edward the Confeſſor, and placed in it 80 canons, who were maintained out of the king's exchequer: this chapel appears to have been either rebuilt, or conſiderably enlarged and decorated, by King Henry III.: that monarch, in the year 1243, iſſued a commiſſion to Walter de Gray, archbiſhop of York, to expedite the works at the king's chapel at Windſor, directing, that the workmen ſhould proceed, as well in winter as in ſummer, till the whole was completed; that a lofty wooden roof, like the roof of the new work at Litchfield, ſhould be made to appear like ſtone-work, with good ceiling and painting; that the chapel ſhould be covered with lead, and four gilded images be put up in it, where the king had before directed images of the ſame kind to be placed; and that a ſtone turret ſhould be made in front of the chapel, of ſufficient ſize to hold three or four bells [b]. Some remains of Henry III's building, as maybe preſumed from the ſtyle of the arches and architectural decorations, may be ſeen on the north ſide of the dean's cloiſters, and at the eaſt end of the chapel, behind the altar. King Edward II. founded a chantry for four chaplains and two clerks, and built a chapel in the park for four other chaplains, whom he afterwards removed to the chapel in the Caſtle.

King Edward III. who had been baptized at Windſor [c], rebuilt St. Edward's chapel there, and dedicated the new ſtructure to the Virgin Mary and St. George.

[b] Clauſ. Rot. 27 Hen. III. p. 1. m. 5.

[c] See p. 418.

In

In the year 1349, he augmented the number of canons to 23, beſides a warden; and appointed 24 poor knights, for all of whom he built habitations, and granted land for their ſupport: the college was ſettled upon a new eſtabliſhment, in 1351, by the biſhop of Wincheſter, acting as delegate for the pope, and made to conſiſt of a *cuſtos* or warden, 12 ſecular canons, 13 prieſts or vicars, 4 clerks, 6 choriſters, and 26 poor or alms knights, beſides other officers. The title of warden was changed to that of dean, in the reign of King Henry IV. and the change was recognized by a charter of King Henry VI. In the reign of King Edward IV. the college was incorporated: by the injunctions of that monarch four Tueſdays in the year were ſet apart for commemorating the bounty of benefactors. A commemoration of this nature is ſtill obſerved, on the Sunday preceding each quarter day, as directed by a ſtatute of Queen Elizabeth: theſe are called *Obit* Sundays, when a particular ſervice, which is to be found in the prayer books, printed for the uſe of this chapel, is read, in addition to the uſual ſervice of the day. The college now conſiſts of a dean, 12 canons, 7 minor canons, 12 lay clerks, one of whom is uſually the organiſt, and 10 choriſters.

The preſent magnificent fabrick, which exhibits one of the moſt beautiful ſpecimens in this or any other kingdom, of that richly ornamented ſpecies of architecture, which prevailed towards the cloſe of the fifteenth and the commencement of the 16th century, was begun by King Edward IV. who having found it neceſſary to take down the old chapel on account of its decayed ſtate, reſolved to build another on the ſame ſite, upon a larger ſcale, and committed the ſuperintendance of the building to Richard Beauchamp, biſhop of Saliſbury. The work was not completed till the reign of King Henry VIII: the beautiful roof of the choir was put up in the year 1508. Sir Reginald Bray, prime miniſter to King Henry VII. and one of the knights companions of the order of the Garter, who died in 1502, ſucceeded biſhop Beauchamp, in the ſuperintendance of this great work, and was a liberal contributor to the building of the choir, and other parts of the fabrick: his cognizance is frequently repeated on the roof of the choir, as are the royal arms, and thoſe of ſeveral noble families with the order of the Garter. The rood loft, and lanthorn were erected in 1516. The preſent organ gallery and ſkreen at the weſt end of the choir, have been lately erected; the ſkreen is of Coade's artificial ſtone. The ſtalls of the knights companions, which are very richly carved in wood, exhibit the names and arms of the ſeveral illuſtrious and noble perſons by whom they have been reſpectively filled. The altar-piece which repreſents the laſt ſupper, is by Mr. Weſt, from whoſe deſigns the eaſt window repreſenting the reſurrection of our Saviour, was executed in painted glaſs by Jarvis and Foreſt, and put up in the year 1788; a window by the ſame artiſts, repreſenting the angels appearing to our Saviour, is placed at the eaſt end of the ſouth aiſle. Theſe ſplendid embelliſhments, the building owes to the provident care of his preſent Majeſty, who was himſelf a

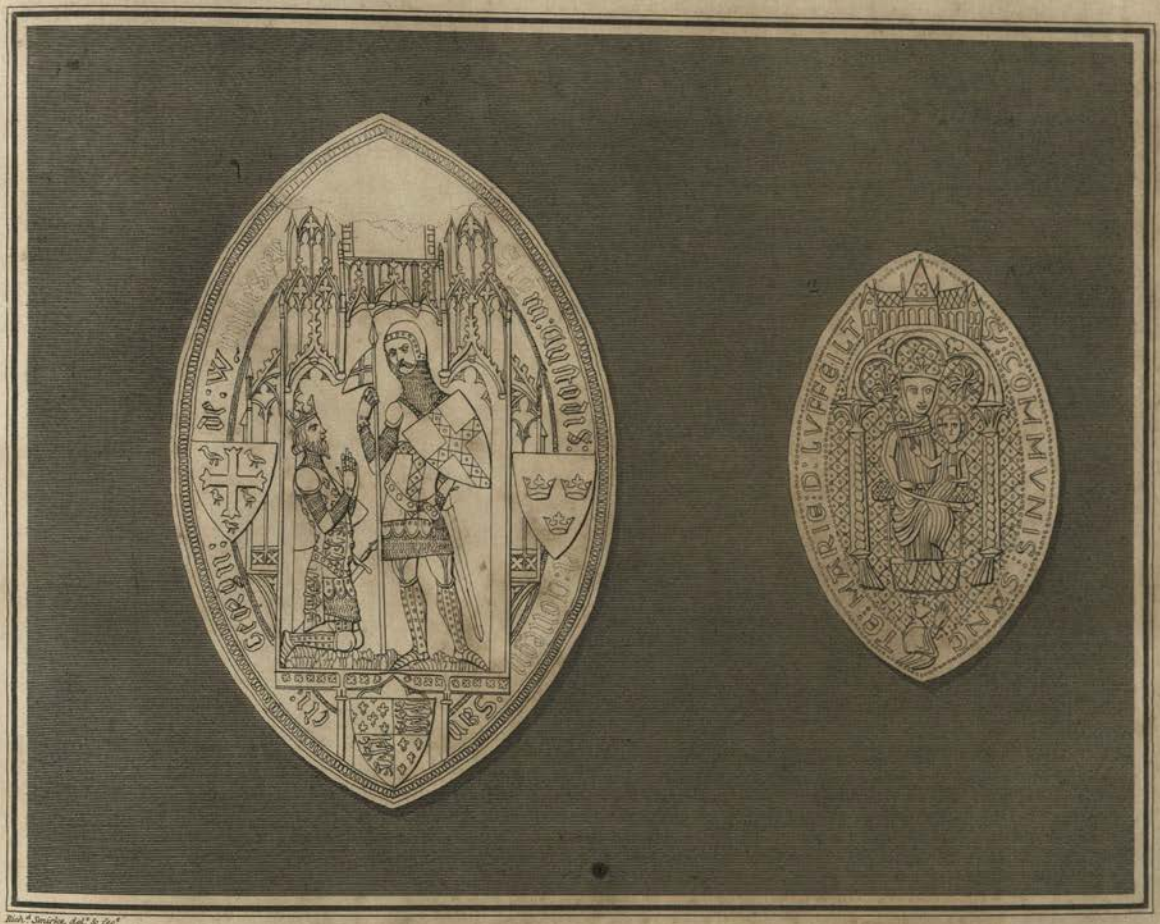



Fig. 1. *Seal of the Warden and College of the Chapel of St. George at Windsor, drawn on a scale one third larger than the original.*

Fig. 2. *Seal of the Priory of St. Mary at Lufield.* [see p. 643 and 688.]

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liberal contributor to them, and has expended large ſums in procuring the whole of this beautiful ſtructure to be thoroughly repaired, and its ornaments reſtored. In the windows on the north and ſouth ſides of the altar, are the arms of the knights companions of the Garter, who together with the dean and chapter of Windſor, and the prelate and chancellor of the order, contributed to the expence of the eaſt window, which is ſaid to have coſt 4000 l. The great weſt window, which is now filled with ancient ſtained glaſs, collected from various parts of the chapel, is intended to be decorated with the ſubject of the crucifixion, which is now executing by Foreſt, from a deſign of Mr. Weſt's. It is to be hoped, that ſome method will be contrived for preſerving the beautiful ſtone work of this window, which exhibits a ſingularly fine ſpecimen of the florid Gothic.

In a vault under the choir, lie buried the bodies of King Henry VIII.; his Queen, Jane Seymour; the unfortunate King Charles I.; and a daughter of the late Queen Anne. King Henry VI. lies buried in the ſouth aiſle; his rival and ſucceſſor King Edward IV. in the north aiſle of the chapel [c].

King Henry VIII. had erected a monument for himſelf, mid-way between the ſtate and the altar, which was nearly finiſhed at his death, and incloſed within a grate. By his will he directs it to be completed, and the tombs of King Henry VI. and King Edward IV. to be made more ſtately. They were all deſpoiled of their ornaments in the civil war, and there is nothing now remaining to denote the place of the ſepulture of King Henry VI. but the royal arms under an arch: nor is there any monument for King Henry VIII. Behind the altar, among other tombs, is that of the learned Dr. David Stokes, canon of Windſor, author of an explication of the minor prophets, and other works, who died in 1669.

In the ſtone work of the roof, at the eaſt end of the ſouth aiſle, is a repreſentation of King Edward IV. and Richard Beauchamp, biſhop of Saliſbury, kneeling at a croſs. In an arch beneath, that prelate lies interred, and under an oppoſite arch is an inſcription, importing that the biſhop had given a miſſal, which formerly lay there for the uſe of the devout, and promiſing 40 days of pardon to every man that ſhould ſay oriſons for his ſoul. At the eaſt end of this aiſle is the Lincoln Chapel, in which is the monument of Edward Earl of Lincoln, Lord High Admiral of England, for thirty years, who died in 1584; with the effigies of the earl and his counteſs. Sir Henry Clinton bart. a deſcendant of the Earl of Lincoln, a diſtinguiſhed military officer, was buried in this chapel in 1795.

A little lower is a ſmall chapel, built for a chantry in 1522, by John Oxenbridge, canon of Windſor, and ornamented with paintings of ſcriptural ſubjects.

Still farther to the weſt is a chapel, built by Dr. Oliver King, biſhop of Bath and Wells, who died in 1492: on the wall fronting it, are the figures of Prince Edward,

[c] See the introduction to Berkſhire, p. 210.

ſon of King Henry VI. King Edward IV. Edward V. and Henry VII. (to all of whom he had been ſecretary,) with their arms, ſupporters, and devices: in the chapel is the biſhop's tomb; and tablets in memory of Bruno Ryves, dean of Windſor, author of the Mercurius Ruſticus, who died in 1677, and the learned critic, Francis Junius, who died in 1678, at the houſe of his nephew Dr. Iſaac Voſſius near Windſor, being then 90 years of age. There are ſome memorials alſo, for the family of Aldworth, paternal anceſtors of Lord Braybrooke, and for many years leſſees of Frogmore, from whom this is now called the Aldworth chapel.

In the middle of the ſouth aiſle is a ſpacious chapel, founded by Sir Reginald Bray, who died in 1502, and lies here interred: his arms and creſt occur in ſeveral parts of the chapel, particularly in the beautiful ſcreen, which ſeparates it from the aiſle. It is probable that the founder was buried in the center of this chapel, which he built for his place of ſepulture; a leaden coffin of an ancient form having been found in that ſpot, on opening the ground for the interment of the Reverend and learned Dr. Waterland, canon of Windſor, who was buried in 1740. It appears by Sir Reginald Bray's will, to have been his intention that a tomb ſhould be erected over his remains; his executors, perhaps, thought that the beautiful choir, which, by a paſſage in his will, ſeems to have been deſigned by him, and to have been principally, if not wholly executed at his expence, would be his beſt monument. It has been already mentioned, that the roof, which was not completed till ſix years after his death, is in memory of his ſplendid benefactions, ornamented (among other devices,) with his creſt, ſeveral times repeated. In this chapel are the monuments of Giles Thompſon, biſhop of Glouceſter, who died in 1612; Ralph Brideoake, biſhop of Chicheſter, who died in 1678; Sir Richard Wortley of Wortley in Yorkſhire 1603, and memorials for ſome of the canons of Windſor.

At the weſt end of the ſouth aiſle is the Beaufort Chapel, in which is an altar-tomb with the effigies of the founder, Charles Somerſet, Earl of Worceſter, who died in 1526, and his lady; and a ſplendid monument, ſupported by pillars of the Corinthian order, in memory of Henry, the firſt Duke of Beaufort, who died in 1699. In the ſame chapel lies buried alſo Henry the loyal Marquis of Worceſter, who died in 1646. This chapel, which ſuſtained much injury in the civil war, and was plundered of the braſs ſcreen which ſurrounded the Earl of Somerſet's tomb, was reſtored by the firſt Duke of Beaufort, and has recently been repaired by the late duke.

In the ſouth aiſle lies buried near the ſouth door of the choir, Charles Duke of Suffolk, a favourite miniſter and brother in law of King Henry VIII. who died in 1545. There was formerly a marble tablet to his memory: nothing now remains to point out the ſite of his grave, but his family name, Charles Brandon, inſcribed on a marble ſlab. In the ſame aiſle is the monument of Theodore Randue eſq. keeper of Windſor palace, who bequeathed the ſum of 6400 l. to various charities; and died

in

in 1724; and among many other tombs, thoſe of Martin Mey, by birth a Pruſſian, an eminent ſurgeon, who died in 1687; Thomas Doughty, canon of Windſor, preceptor to Queen Mary and Queen Anne, who died in 1701; and the Hon. Marmaduke Darcy, brother of the firſt Earl of Holderneſs, who died in 1687: this gentleman was ſent by the Earl of Rocheſter into the north, to prepare the way for the reſtoration of King Charles II. and was afterwards one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber to that monarch.

In the body of the church was formerly to be ſeen the tomb of Richard Field, Dean of Glouceſter, a theological writer, who died in 1615.

On the north ſide of the choir, adjoining to the altar, is a gallery, called the Queen's Cloſet, where their Majeſties and the royal family attend divine ſervice.

On the weſt ſide of the choir door, in the north aiſle, is a chapel, built by Elizabeth, wife of William Lord Haſtings, who was put to death by King Richard III. in 1483, and lies here buried: it is dedicated to St. Stephen, whoſe hiſtory is repreſented on the ſouth ſide, painted in four compartments. This chapel is built with open Gothic arch-work, richly ornamented with crockets and pinnacles.

In the center of the north aiſle, correſponding with that of Sir Reginald Bray, in the oppoſite aiſle, is the Rutland Chapel, founded by Sir Thomas St. Leger, for the interment of his wife, Anne, Ducheſs of Exeter, ſiſter of King Edward IV. who died in 1475. On the north wall of this chapel is a copper plate, gilt, on which are engraven the figures of the founder in armour, with his ſurcoat, and his lady in robes, with a ducal coronet [d], and the monument of George Lord Roos, (anceſtor of the Duke of Rutland,) and Anne, his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas St. Leger and the Ducheſs of Exeter. In this chapel is a braſs plate, curiouſly enamelled, in memory of Dr. Robert Honeywood, archdeacon of Taunton, and canon of Windſor, who died in 1522; and among others, the tombs of Baptiſt May, privy purſe to Charles II. who died in 1696; Anne, relict of John Lord Frecheville, 1717; Mrs. Hannah Lowther, of Maſke, in Cumberland, who died at the age of 103, in 1757; Theodore Aylward, late Greſham profeſſor of muſic, who died in 1801; and that of Nathaniel Giles, Mus. Doc. which has been removed hither from the north aiſle: he died in 1633.

At the weſt end of the north aiſle is a chapel, called the Bread Chapel, or Urſwick's, from Dr. Chriſtopher Urſwick, dean of Windſor, a great promoter of the building of St. George's Chapel, who having reſigned the deanery, retired to his vicarage at Hackney, in Middleſex, and dying in 1521, was there buried. In this chapel is the monument of Col. Robert Brudenell, deputy governor of Windſor Caſtle, under his brother the Duke of Montagu, who died in 1768.

In the north aiſle are the tombs of Wm. Child, Mus. Doc. who died in 1697,

[d] There is an engraving of this plate in Sandford's Cenealogical Hiſtory, p. 377.

at the age of 91 [e]; Dr. Samuel Pratt, preceptor to William, Duke of Glouceſter, a learned divine, and theological writer, who died in 1723, being then Dean of Rocheſter, and canon of Windſor; the Hon. Frederick Keppel D. D. Biſhop of Exeter, 1778; John Buller eſq. one of the Lords of the Treaſury, 1786; and many others.

In the dean's cloiſters, among many others are the tombs of Matthew Green, maſter of the choriſters, an eminent compoſer, who died in 1703; and Capt. John Baynes, who died in 1711, at the age of 112. Several of thoſe recorded in Pote's Hiſtory of Windſor are not now to be ſeen; the inſcriptions probably have been obliterated: among theſe are memorials for Thomas Browne, who died canon of Windſor in 1673, a learned writer, who, among other works, publiſhed a tranſlation of Camden's annals of Queen Elizabeth, with corrections and additions; and for Capt. Thomas Baſkerville, who had maintained a troop of horſe for King Charles I. at his own coſt, and died one of the Poor Knights of Windſor, in 1711, at the age of 106.

At the eaſt end of St. George's Chapel, is an edifice, called the tomb-houſe, built by King Henry VII. and intended for his burial-place, before he erected that magnificent ſtructure adjoining Weſtminſter Abbey, which goes by his name. This building being then unappropriated, was granted by King Henry VIII. to Cardinal Wolſey, who began to erect there a moſt ſumptuous monument for himſelf [f], intending it for the place of his interment. The deſign of this monument, which was never finiſhed, is ſaid to have exceeded in magnificence that of King Henry VII.; Benedetto of Florence had received 4250 ducats for what he had executed before the Cardinal's fall, and the expence of gilding what was then completed, which was not more than half, is ſaid to have exceeded 380l. The unfiniſhed tomb was demoliſhed in the civil war: King Charles I. is ſaid to have deſigned this chapel for the burial-place of himſelf and family. In the reign of King James II. it was fitted up as a chapel, for the celebration of divine ſervice according to the rites of the Roman Catholic religion. Verrio was employed to paint the ceiling and walls; and that monarch, to the great diſguſt of his proteſtant ſubjects, publicly attended therein the celebration of maſs. After his reign, the chapel had been ſuffered to go to decay, till the year 1800, when his majeſty gave orders that it ſhould undergo a thorough repair, intending it as a place of interment for his family. Conſiderable progreſs has been made in the work, the decayed battlements and other external ornaments having been completely reſtored.

[e] He was for 65 years organiſt at Windſor and Whitehall: the body of the choir of this chapel, was paved at his expence.

[f] The ſuppoſition which is entertained by ſome writers, that the cardinal intended this monument for the king, ſeems to be erroneous. See Pote's Hiſtory of Windſor, p. 61. where are quotations from Fiddes's Life of Wolſey, and Lord Bacon's Life of King Henry VIII.

The lodgings of the Dean and Canons are ſituated in the lower ward behind St. George's Chapel: the old part of the deanery was built in 1500, by Dean Urſwick. In the great hall are the arms of the ſovereign and knights companions of the order of the garter. In an apartment called the Garter-room, the knights companions meet to robe on the morning of an inſtallation (if the ſovereign ſhould not be preſent) and from thence, upon ſuch occaſions, the proceſſion begins. In this room is a very ancient ſcreen, on which are the arms of the ſeveral ſovereigns and knights companions, from the firſt inſtitution of the order. There are two cloiſters, called the deans and canons cloiſters; in the latter are the houſes of the canons. The apartments of the minor-canons, clerks, and other officers of the college, are ſituated at the weſt end of St. George's Chapel, the buildings are in a ſemicircular form, ſuppoſed to be in alluſion to the fetlock, a device of the founder, King Edward IV.

On the ſouth ſide of the lower ward, are the apartments of the alms knights, or, as they are more commonly called, poor knights of Windſor. This charitable inſtitution owes its origin to King Edward III. founder of the order of the garter, who intended it excluſively for the proviſion of ſuch perſons, as having deſerved well of their country by their military ſervices, had fallen into poverty. Their number was originally 24; afterwards by the founder, increaſed to 26, to correſpond with the number of knights companions of the garter. Their duty was to attend conſtantly on the celebration of divine ſervice, and to pray for the proſperity of the ſovereign and knights companions of the garter. Their allowance was one ſhilling a day for their maintenance, and 40s. *per annum* for other neceſſaries paid out of the endowment of the college, being the ſame ſum which was originally allowed for the canons in reſidence.

By an act of parliament, in the reign of King Edward IV. the college was diſcharged of the maintenance of the alms knights. It does not appear how they were ſupported from this time till their eſtabliſhment by Queen Elizabeth, but the inſtitution was kept up, and among thoſe who belonged to it, during this interval, were many who are ſuppoſed to have obtained admittance into the fraternity, rather from motives of devotion, than for need of the endowment, whatever it was, as Thomas Hulme, ſome time Clarencieux king of arms; Lodowick Carly, the king's phyſician; John Mewtes, ſecretary of the French tongue, and Bartholomew Weſtby, made a baron of the Exchequer in 1509. Sir Robert Champlain, who had fought on the ſide of King Henry VI. in the wars between the houſes of York and Lancaſter, and afterwards diſtinguiſhed himſelf in foreign ſervice, particularly by fighting againſt the Turks, under the banners of the King of Hungary, when he had the misfortune to be made a priſoner, being reduced to great diſtreſs by the payment

of

of a heavy ranſom, was admitted one of the alms knights of Windſor, on the plea of poverty, by King Henry VII.

The houſes for the poor knights were built in the reign of Queen Mary. Queen Elizabeth, in the firſt year of her reign, ſettled the inſtitution upon its preſent eſtabliſhment, according to the intention of her royal father, who by his will, had given lands of the annual value of 600l. to the dean and chapter, for the ſupport of the alms knights. According to the directions of his will, they were to be thirteen in number, being gentlemen decayed in wars, or ſuch like ſervices of the realm. By the ſtatutes of Queen Elizabeth, the knights are to be unmarried, and in caſe of marriage, to loſe their place, except by the ſpecial favour of the ſovereign: their place alſo is to become vacant, if any lands or revenues fall to them, of the yearly value of 20l. The annual allowance of each knight, according to this eſtabliſhment, is 18l. 5s. beſides 3l. 6s. 8d. for a gown or ſurcoat. King James I. was pleaſed to double their allowance, by an additional penſion of 18l. 5s. payable out of the exchequer. The governor of the alms knights has an additional ſalary of 3l. 6s. 8d. beſides perquiſites.

In the reign of Charles I. five other knights were added by the benefactions of Sir Peter Le Maire, and Sir Francis Crane, ſome time chancellor of the order of the garter. Sir Peter Le Maire, by his will, bearing date 1631, bequeathed the ſum of 1500l. to be diſpoſed of in charitable uſes, at the diſcretion of his brother-in-law, Sir Francis Crane, who having formed the intention of founding five alms knights places, appropriated this money towards building the houſes. The work was left unfiniſhed at his death, but after much delay, occaſioned by a litigation with his executors, was finally completed according to his intentions, and the ſum of 200l. *per annum* for penſions to the knights, and 30l. *per annum* for repairs, charged upon the manor of Carbrook, in Suſſex, which had been his property. The decree was made in 1659, and after the reſtoration of King Charles II. it was decreed by him as ſovereign of the order, that the new knights ſhould be ſubject to the ſame rules, and partakers of the ſame privileges as thoſe on the old foundation. Sir Francis Crane's knights now divide the full ſum of 230l. *per annum*, and repair their own houſes, which are ſituated at the ſouth-weſt corner of the lower ward. The houſes of the knights on the old eſtabliſhment are repaired by the crown.

Samuel Travers eſq. by his will, bearing date 1724, directed that ſeven houſes ſhould be built out of his perſonal eſtate, in or near the caſtle of Windſor, for the reſidence of an additional number of poor knights, and left an eſtate in Eſſex of 500l. *per annum* for their maintenance, directing that the ſenior, who ſhould be governor, ſhould receive the ſum of 72l. *per annum*, the others 60l. and that the remainder, after deducting repairs, ſhould be equally divided among them. A very

long

long litigation in Chancery took place on the ſubject of this will, and it is but recently that the eſtabliſhment has taken effect. The poor knights, who by the appointment of Mr. Travers are to be ſuperannuated or diſabled lieutenants of Engliſh men of war, unmarried men, without children, have been elected. The houſes which ſtand in Datchet lane, on the north ſide of the caſtle, were completed in 1802. The governor of Windſor Caſtle, the dean of Windſor, and the provoſt of Eton College, are viſitors under the founder's will, the vacancies are to be thus ſupplied; the commiſſioners of the navy chooſe three perſons for each vacancy, the Lords of the Admiralty ſelect two out of the three, and his Majeſty nominates one of them.

Between the two wards of Windſor Caſtle, in what is ſometimes called the middle ward, ſtands the keep or round tower, which is the lodging of the governor of the caſtle. A flight of 100 ſtone ſteps leads to the governor's apartments, which are ſpacious and handſome, and command a moſt beautiful and extenſive view over the intereſting and pictureſque ſcenes of the adjacent country. In this tower is a guard-room, or magazine of arms, in which are preſerved ſome curious ſpecimens of ancient muſquets, pikes, and bandoleers.

The office of conſtable, or governor of the caſtle, is of great antiquity and honor, and of extenſive power, both military and civil, it being his duty to defend the caſtle againſt the king's enemies, and to take charge of all priſoners brought thither. The laſt ſtate priſoner confined in this caſtle was Marſhal Belleiſle. As a civil officer, the conſtable is judge of a court of record, held by preſcription, for the determination of pleas between party and party, within the precincts of Windſor foreſt, the practice of which is at preſent ſuſpended; and as chief foreſter has cognizance of all offences againſt the foreſt laws, with power to impriſon offenders: but the priſon, the room where the court of record was held, and the apartments of its officers, which were at the entrance of the lower ward, are now converted into a magazine, guard room, and apartments for the officers on guard in the caſtle.

The firſt governor of Windſor Caſtle, who was appointed by William the Conqueror, by the name of Caſtellan, was Walter Fitz-Other, anceſtor of the Earls of Plymouth, who, from that circumſtance, took the name of De Windſor. Hubert Walter, lord chancellor and archbiſhop of Canterbury, was made keeper of Windſor Caſtle and foreſt by King John, in 1201; Sir Simon de Burley, K. G. was appointed to this high office by King Richard II. in 1377, and it was confirmed to him for life, in 1383; Sir Piers de Courteney, ſon of Hugh, Earl of Devon, was made conſtable in 1389; Sir John Stanley was conſtable in 1409; John Walerton, in the reign of Henry V.; Edmund Beaufort, Earl of Dorſet, afterwards Duke of Somerſet, in 1439; and Thomas Windſor, a deſcendant of the firſt governor, in 1483. During the Protectorate of Cromwell, this office was held by the learned

Sir

Sir Bulſtrode Whitlocke: it has ſince been held ſucceſſively by Henry, Duke of Norfolk; George, Duke of Northumberland; Charles, Earl of Carliſle; Charles, Duke of St. Albans; and the late Duke of Montagu, whoſe brother, the Earl of Cardigan, is the preſent conſtable.

The circumference of the whole caſtle, according to Batty Langley's admeaſurement, is 4180 feet; the length, from eaſt to weſt, 1480 feet; and the area, excluſive of the terras walks, about 12 acres.

On the ſouth ſide of the caſtle is a modern manſion, called the Queen's Lodge, where the royal family reſided for ſeveral years, during the ſummer ſeaſon: not far from it is a houſe, called the lower lodge, formerly a ſeat of the Duke of St. Alban's, purchaſed by his preſent Majeſty, and occupied by ſome of the younger branches of the royal family: it is ſaid to have been built by the celebrated Eleanor Gwynn, mother of the firſt Duke of St. Alban's [g].

The foreſt, which extended formerly into a part of Buckinghamſhire, and compriſed a large diſtrict of Surrey, was then computed to be 120 miles in circumference: its preſent circuit, according to Rocque's Survey, is ſomewhat more than 56 miles and a half, including the town of Wokingham, and ſeveral villages [h]: the neighbourhood of Shotteſbroke and White-Waltham was anciently within a diſtrict of the foreſt, called the bailiwick of Twitchen, and afterwards Fines, or more properly Fienes Bailiwick, from the family of Fienes, who were hereditary bailiffs: this office afterwards came, by inheritance, to the Nevilles, as appears by Norden's Survey in the Britiſh Muſeum, taken in 1607, at which time the Lovelace family were keepers of Cranbourn Walk: the preſent ranger of the foreſt and great park is Prince William, ſon of his Royal Highneſs, the Duke of Glouceſter: Lord Cranley is the out-ranger: the Duke of Glouceſter is ranger of Cranbourn Chace, and his daughter, the Princeſs Sophia, of New Lodge Walk.

The great park, according to Norden's Survey, formerly contained 3650 acres: its principal entrance from the town leads to a noble avenue of elms, nearly three miles in length: the ranger's lodge, together with a great part of the park, is within the pariſh of Old-Windſor: the rangerſhip of the great and little park, at Windſor, was given by King William, about the year 1696, to the Earl of Portland; and upon his death, which happened in 1719, was granted by Queen Anne, for three lives, to Sarah, Ducheſs of Marlborough: on the expiration of this grant, the rangerſhip of the great park was given, in 1746, to his Royal Highneſs, William, Duke of Cumberland, by whom the lodge was much improved and altered; and that of the little park to the late Earl of Pomfret: the late Duke of Cumberland, his Majeſty's brother, was appointed ranger of the great park, on the death of his illuſtrious uncle: the preſent ranger is Prince William, ſon of his Royal

[g] See Aſhmole's Berks. [h] See p. 190.

Highneſs,

Highneſs the Duke of Glouceſter; but on the death of the late duke, in 1791, his Majeſty took the management of the park into his own hands: it was then found to contain 3800 acres, the greater part of which his Majeſty, with a very laudable zeal for the intereſts of agriculture, has devoted to experiment, it having been diſparked, and converted into farms, under the direction of Mr. Kent, who introduced there the Norfolk and Flemiſh modes of huſbandry: the park, which is reduced from 3800 to 1800 acres, maintains 3000 head of deer, being the ſame number with which it was before ſtocked [i].

The little park, on the north and eaſt ſides of the caſtle, which, in Norden's time, contained only 280 acres, was enlarged and incloſed with a brick wall, by King William III.; it now contains about 500: the ground on the north ſide, which was laid out as a garden by Queen Anne, has been ſince converted into a lawn: on the ſouth-eaſt is the lodge, which was the reſidence of the late Earl of Pomfret, when ranger: the preſent ranger is General Richard Grenville: the lodge, which his Majeſty keeps in his own hands, is occupied by ſervants; near it is the royal dairy, and a kennel for the king's harriers. In this park ſtood the celebrated Herne's oak, immortalized by Shakeſpeare, who lays one of the ſcenes of the Merry Wives of Windſor at Frogmore.

Frogmore houſe, which had been ſold among the crown lands during the civil war, became afterwards the ſeat of George Fitzroy, Duke of Northumberland, one of the natural ſons of King Charles II. whoſe widow, the Ducheſs Dowager, died there at a very advanced age. Frogmore was for a time the reſidence of Marſhal Belleiſle, after he was releaſed from his confinement in the round tower [k]: after this, it was the ſeat of Sir Edward Walpole K. B. Of late years it has become a favourite retirement of her preſent Majeſty, who purchaſed the leaſe of Mrs. Anne Egerton, by whom it was held under the crown. Her Majeſty is at preſent making ſome conſiderable additions to the houſe; the gardens have been laid out with much taſte by Major Price, late vice-chamberlain to her Majeſty.

In the year 1276, Windſor was declared a free borough by King Edward I. who granted to the burgeſſes a mercatorial gild, and various privileges and exemptions: the ſame monarch, in the 9th year of his reign, granted the town of Windſor to the burgeſſes, ſubject to the payment of a fee-farm rent of 17l. *per annum* [l]. King Edward IV. incorporated them, by the name of the mayor, bailiffs, and burgeſſes: King Charles II. gave the corporation the manor of Underore, within the limits of

[i] Pearce's Agricultural Survey of Berks.

[k] Hiſtory of Windſor, 4to. 1749, p. 20.

[l] See Pat. 9. Edw. I. the condition of the grant is thus expreſſed in the record: "Ita quod bene & fideliter ſe habeant & mercatoribus alienigenis & indigenis; necnon et pauperibus ejuſdem villæ fieri faciant juſticiæ complimentum."

the borough: by the laſt charter of that monarch the body corporate conſiſts of 28 or 30 members, 13 of whom are ſtyled benchers, and ten of theſe benchers aldermen. One of the aldermen is annually choſen mayor, and two of the junior members are choſen bailiffs by the mayor and aldermen: the officers of the corporation are, a high ſteward, under ſteward, and common clerk. The corporation, by royal grant, hold a weekly market at Windſor on Saturdays, and three annual fairs; Eaſter Tueſday, July 5, and St. Edward's day, October 25: the Midſummer fair is no longer celebrated as a mart for wool. The market croſs erected by John Sadler in 1380, and repaired by Godfrey Goodman, biſhop of Glouceſter in 1635, was demoliſhed at the beginning of the civil war.

The guildhall or townhouſe was built in 1686, at the expence of the corporation, aided by ſubſcriptions: it is adorned with portraits of the Kings and Queens of England from King Charles I. to Queen Anne; Archbiſhop Laud, Theodore Randue eſq. and other benefactors. At the north end of the town houſe is a ſtatue of Queen Anne, placed there by the corporation in 1707, and at the ſouth end, that of her royal conſort, George Prince of Denmark.

Windſor was for a while the county town, under the charter of King Edward I. already mentioned, bearing dated 1276, by which that monarch grants, that the juſtices itinerant for the county of Berks ſhould hold their aſſizes at Windſor, and that the county gaol which had before been at Wallingford ſhould be removed thither; but this alteration having been found very inconvenient, Windſor being ſituated in a remote corner of the county, the gaol was removed to Reading, in conſequence, it is probable, of a petition to parliament in 1314 [m]. It appears by a record lately diſcovered at the tower, that the King, (Edward II.) had in the firſt inſtance given a decided negative to the petition, and declared that the gaol ſhould not be in any other caſtle than his own [n].

The borough of New-Windſor ſent two burgeſſes to parliament in the reign of Edw. I. but omitted making any returns from 1340 to 1446: Browne Willis ſuppoſes this omiſſion to have happened through the indulgence of the crown, it being then eſteemed a burthen rather than an honour and advantage to ſend repreſentatives to parliament. The right of election in this borough, which had been frequently conteſted, was finally determined to be in the inhabitants at large, not receiving alms. Sir Julius Cæſar, the celebrated civilian, twice repreſented the borough of New-Windſor in parliament in the reign of Queen Elizabeth: Sir Chriſtopher Wren was elected by the corporation in 1690, but thrown out upon petition.

[m] See Rolls of Parliament.

[n] The words of the record are, "Le Roi ne veut pas avoir ſa gaole en altre chatel q'en le ſeon."

The

The number of inhabitants at Windſor in 1555, according to an account taken by order of Cardinal Pole, was only 1000; the number in 1801, according to the returns made to parliament under the population act, was 3461. An act of parliament for paving the town of New Windſor paſſed in 1585: another act for the ſame purpoſe paſſed in 1769.

In the pariſh church, which was originally a chapel to Clewer, are ſome remarkable monuments: that of James Pagett eſq. one of the barons of the Exchequer, who died in 1638, has buſts of himſelf and his lady, Nazareth daughter of Robert Harris of Reading; ſhe had been twice before married, and ſurviving her laſt huſband 28 years, died in 1666, at the age of 88. The monument of the learned Sir Thomas Reeve, Lord Chief Juſtice of the Common Pleas, who reſided at Windſor, and died in 1736, was erected at the expence of Dr. Mead; it is adorned with buſts of the chief juſtice and his lady, by Scheemaker: the monument of Topham Foot eſq. who died in 1712, is adorned with a buſt of the deceaſed by the ſame artiſt: that of Rebecca, daughter of Sir George Southcot of Dartmouth Caſtle, who died in 1642, is by Marſhall. There are memorials alſo for Sir Thomas Reeve of Holyport, heir of the lord chief juſtice, who died in 1777; the families of Braham, Starkey, Foot, Hale, Topham, and Litton; and a tablet to the memory of the late celebrated phyſician, Dr. William Heberden, who died in 1801: Dr. Heberden had a houſe at Windſor near the caſtle, lately purchaſed by his Majeſty for the reſidence of the Princeſs Charlotte, daughter of his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales.

The great tithes of Old and New-Windſor were ſucceſſively appropriated to the monaſteries of Waltham Abbey, Chertſey, and Biſham: they are now the property of Henry Powney Iſherwood, a minor. The vicarage is in the deanery of Reading, and in the gift of the crown: the vicarage houſe was the benefaction of Wm. Evington in 1487: Theodore Randue eſq. gave 200l. towards augmenting the vicarage.

On the north ſide of the church yard is a free ſchool, erected in the year 1706, for the reception of 30 boys and 20 girls, who are clothed and educated by the intereſt of various legacies, aided by a ſubſcription of the inhabitants. Theodore Randue, gave 500l. Dr. Hale 500l. Richard Topham eſq. 100l. and Lord Chief Juſtice Reeve 100l.

In the year 1503, I. Tomſon and W. Huntred, chaplains; and I. Combe, gent. founded an alms-houſe in Sheet ſtreet for eight men and women, which in 1510 was endowed by Thomas Brotherton, alias Hunt; the revenue of this alms-houſe, which has been augmented by Richard Gallis, amounts at preſent to about 35l. *per annum*; the penſioners, who are now 12 in number, receive each 10s. *per quarter*. Near the Pit-fields are four other alms-houſes, founded and endowed by Richard Reeve, gent. in 1676; the poor in theſe houſes receive 50 ſhillings *per annum*

each. In Park-Street is an alms-houſe without endowment for twelve poor men, who are ſupported by the pariſh.

Archbiſhop Laud gave 50l. *per annum* to this pariſh, to be employed two following years in apprenticing poor boys, and every third year in giving marriage portions to poor maidens of the town of Windſor[o]. Theodore Randue eſq. having given the ſum of 1000l. in augmentation of Archbiſhop Laud's charity, his executors, by a diſcretionary power veſted in them, added 250l. with which joint ſum an eſtate was purchaſed, out of the rents of which 50l. *per annum* is thus diſpoſed of; ten pounds each, two following years, to five boys, who have been apprenticed by Archbiſhop Laud's charity, and duly ſerved their apprenticeſhips; and every third year, the ſame ſum to three maidens, born in Windſor, that have faithfully lived in one ſervice during three whole years.

Mrs. Barbara Jordan, in 1730, gave 1l. *per annum* each to three old maids not receiving alms; Mrs. Arabella Reeve, in 1732, gave the intereſt of 500l. to ſix poor widows, lame or blind, being natives and inhabitants of New Windſor. There are ſeveral other charities belonging to the pariſh, and the overſeers receive 120l. *per annum* from the crown, by royal grant, in lieu of waſte lands at various times incloſed in the parks.

A hoſpital for ſick ſoldiers, capable of accommodating about 40 men, was built at Windſor in the year 1784. There are barracks near the town for 650 infantry, and 220 cavalry, including officers' horſes.

Winkfield, in the hundred of Ripplesmere, lies about ſix miles to the ſouth-weſt of Windſor. The manor which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, was granted in 1539 to Anthony Ellis and Richard Ward: having undergone various alienations, it was purchaſed by his preſent Majeſty of the family of Meeke, about the year 1780.

The manor of Foli-john, or Foly-John, in this pariſh, was, in 1328, the property of Oliver de Bourdeaux, who then procured the king's licence to impark his wood at this place[p]. In 1336, this manor was granted in fee to Sir William Truſſell, ſon of Matilda, the wife of Oliver de Bourdeaux, by a former huſband[q]: either this Sir William, or a ſon of the ſame name, ſurrendered it to King Edward III. in 1365. After remaining many years in the crown, the manor of Foli-john park was granted, in the year 1630[r], to Henry Henne eſq. who in 1643 was created a baronet: the title became extinct in the early part of the laſt century, by the death

[o] See p. 350. [p] Pat. 2 Edw. III. [q] Pat. 10 Edw. III. [r] The account of Foli-John Park, from the time of this grant, was communicated by James Lambert eſq.

of his great grandſon, Sir Richard Henne, (or, as he ſpelt the name, Hene), when this eſtate devolved to two daughters: Lord Henry Beauclerk ſoon afterwards became poſſeſſed of the whole by purchaſe: one moiety he bought, in 1744, of Mr. Bennet, who, in 1735, had purchaſed of Penelope Hene, ſpinſter: the remaining moiety was bought by his lordſhip, in 1748, of Alice, the other coheireſs, and her huſband, James Dewhurſt. In 1771, Foly-John park was purchaſed of the repreſentatives of Lord Henry Beauclerk, by George Phillips Towry eſq. who continued in poſſeſſion till 1800, ſince which time it has undergone one or two alienations, and is now, by a late purchaſe, the property of William Blane eſq.

The manor of Aſcot, in this pariſh, belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon: in 1722, it was purchaſed of the family of Broughton, who had poſſeſſed it more than an hundred years, by Robert Forſter eſq.: on Mr. Forſter's death, it was ſold to Andrew Lindegreen eſq. of whoſe executors it was purchaſed in 1787, by the preſent proprietor, Daniel Agace eſq. who reſides in the manor houſe.

The manor of Chauridge in this pariſh, having formerly belonged, as it is ſuppoſed, to the neighbouring priory of Broomhale, is now veſted in the maſter and ſcholars of St. John's College, in Cambridge, who poſſeſs the other eſtates which belonged to that convent.

In this pariſh is Cranbourn-Lodge, built by Richard, Earl of Ranelagh, paymaſter of the forces, in the reign of King Charles II. after which it was ſucceſſively in the occupation of Charles, Duke of St. Alban's [s]; the Duke of Cumberland, his Majeſty's uncle [t]; and of his late brother, the Duke of York: it is now the ſeat of his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Glouceſter: in this pariſh alſo is Swinley-Lodge, the occaſional reſidence of the maſter of the buck hounds.

Fern-Hill, in the pariſh of Winkfield, was the ſeat of the brave General Clayton, who loſt his life in the glorious battle of Dettingen, in 1743; now of Francis Knollys eſq. who took that name on having ſucceeded in eſtabliſhing his claim, as heir at law to the eſtate of Sir Francis Knollys, of Fern-Hill, who died about the year 1770: he was the laſt male heir of the ancient family of that name, at Reading.

The other principal ſeats in this pariſh, are Winkfield-Place, the property of Stanlake Batſon eſq.; Winkfield-Park, the property of Thomas Bingley eſq.; and Lovell-Hill, that of Charles Shard eſq. The latter was the ſeat of Admiral Sir Charles Knowles, when he was created a baronet, in 1765.

[s] Pote's Hiſtory of Windſor.

[t] This lodge, together with the wardenſhip of the foreſt, was granted to the duke, on the Duke of St. Alban's death, in 1751: his royal highneſs was ranger of the great park, by a former grant, and for ſeveral years occupied the ranger's lodge there.

In

In the parish church is a tablet, with the figure, engraved on brass, of an aged man, distributing bread to the poor, in memory of Thomas Mountagu, yeoman of the guards, who died in 1630, aged 92; and the tomb of Thomas Wise, master-mason of England, 1685.

The dean and chapter of Salisbury are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading, and impropriators of the great tithes, which belonged formerly to the abbot and convent of Abingdon: the vicar has the great tithes of *Bulbrook*, a hamlet of this parish: there is another hamlet, called *Hately*, and many scattered houses about Winkfield-Plain, Winkfield-Row, North-Street, and Hatchet-Lane.

The Earl of Ranelagh, in 1710, built a free school for boys, and another for girls, under the same roof, on Winkfield-Plain, and endowed them with the manor of Killeagh, in Ireland, and other estates. Thomas Maule esq. in 1715, gave 200l. to these schools, which was laid out in lands, in the parish of Winkfield. Mr. Hatch, who had received his education at the school, gave about the year 1780, the sum of 500l. as a grateful acknowledgement for the advantages he had himself received.

WITHAM, or *Wightam*, in the hundred of Hormer, lies three miles to the north-west of Oxford: at this place was, in ancient times, a nunnery, founded originally at Abingdon, by the sister of King Ceadwall, and afterwards removed hither: it was deserted by the nuns, during the war between Offa, king of the Mercians, and Kinewulf, king of the West Saxons, in consequence of a castle having been then built at Witham: the nunnery was never afterwards inhabited [u].

The manor of Witham was, at an early period, the property of the Wightams, who took their name from the village: they became extinct in the reign of King Edward IV.: it is not improbable that Alice Denton, who died seised of the manor, in 1480, was the heiress of that family: on her death, Witham was inherited by her relation, Sir Richard Harcourt [x]: the manor house, an ancient stone fabrick within a moat, was built by one of this family: the arms of Harcourt, with the

[u] See Cotton MSS. Brit. Mus. Claudius, B. VI. fol. 6.

[x] Esch. 19 Edw. IV. This Sir Richard must have been the same person of that name, who died in 1487, being the immediate ancestor of the present Earl Harcourt. It is probable, that Witham was inherited by William, his only son by his third wife; for Sir William Harcourt and Francis Harcourt esq. are described, in some Berkshire pedigrees in the British Museum, as of Witham; and the name of William does not, in any other instance, appear in the accounts of this noble family in the peerage.

Garter,

Garter[y], impaling ſemeé of croſs croſslets, a lion rampant, holding a roſe, are to be ſeen upon a ceiling. How this manor became veſted in the crown does not appear; moſt probably by exchange: it was granted, in 1539, to Sir John Williams, afterwards Lord Williams, of Thame: Henry, Lord Norris, ſon of Sir Henry Norris, who was executed on a ſlight ſuſpicion of having been criminally connected with Queen Anne Bullen, became poſſeſſed of Witham, by marriage with the heireſs of Lord Williams: it is now the property and ſeat of the Earl of Abingdon, whoſe anceſtor, Montague Bertie, Earl of Lindſey, married the daughter and heir of Edward Wray eſq. groom of the bed chamber to King James I. by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and ſole heir of Francis, Lord Norris.

The braſs figures of the Wyghtam family, mentioned by Aſhmole, are now placed againſt the wall in the pariſh church, near one of the windows; the inſcriptions are loſt: Montagu, Earl of Abingdon, put down a ſlab, in 1735, with an inſcription to the memory of this ancient family, but it is already nearly obliterated: the ſame misfortune has happened to a memorial of Mr. Edward Purcell, gentleman uſher to King Charles II. and brother of Henry Purcell, the celebrated muſician: the Earl of Abingdon is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Abingdon.

Adjoining to this pariſh is Seacourt, anciently called Seckworth, Senkworth, and Seke-Court, which ſome records ſpeak of as belonging to Witham; but it has been long conſidered as extra-parochial: it contains five houſes, and had formerly a free chapel, of which there are no remains: the manor of Seacourt, which belonged formerly to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, is now annexed to the manor of Witham, having been granted with it to Sir John Williams, in 1539: an eſtate, called alſo the manor of Seacourt, was granted, in the reign of King Edward II. by Sir Walter Le Poore, to Sir William Bereford, for life, with reverſion to the Beaumont family[z]: Eleanor, Counteſs of Arundel, who had been the wife of John, Lord Beaumont, died ſeiſed of it in 1375[a].

Little-Wittenham, in the hundred of Ock, lies four miles and a half to the north-weſt of Wallingford: the manor, which had belonged to the abbot and

[y] It is difficult to account for the order of the Garter, which accompanies theſe arms, nor does the coat which compoſes the impalement correſpond with the arms of any family mentioned in the peerage, as marrying with the Harcourts. It is moſt probable that Witham-Houſe was built by Sir Richard Harcourt, ſoon after he became poſſeſſed of the manor, in 1480; and it is not unlikely that the impalement contains the arms of his laſt wife, relict of Sir Miles Stapleton, whoſe maiden name does not occur in the peerage; but this Sir Richard was not a Knight of the Garter. His elder brother, Sir Robert, who died before the Harcourts came into poſſeſſion of this manor, was K. G.

[z] See Eſch. 20 Edw. II. [a] Eſch. Edw. III.

convent of Abingdon, was given, by King Henry VIII. in 1547, to Thomas, Lord Wriothesley: it is probable, that it became soon afterwards the property of John Barnes, gentleman porter of the castle of Guisnes, in France, who was buried at Little Wittenham, in 1588; for it appears, that his sister and heir married William Dunch esq. auditor of the mint, whose family, for a long series of years, were lords of this manor: from them it passed, by marriage, to the Oxendons: Sir Henry Oxendon bart. sold it, in 1788, to William Hallet esq. of whom it was purchased by Nathaniel Dance esq. now Sir Nathaniel Holland bart. the present proprietor: the ancient manor house, which was the seat of the family of Dunch, has been pulled down.

In the parish church are some memorials for the ancient family of Kidwelly; and in an adjoining chapel, several monuments of the family of Dunch: the most remarkable is that of Sir William Dunch, who represented the borough of Wallingford in parliament, and married the daughter of Sir Henry Cromwell, aunt to the protector, Oliver: it is of marble and alabaster, very costly, with the effigies of Sir William, in armour, and that of his lady. Edmund Dunch, son of Sir William, is said to have been made governor of Wallingford castle by his cousin, the protector: in 1658, he was created a baronet, and afterwards called to the Upper House, by the title of Baron Burnell, of which he was divested at the restoration: he died in 1678. The author of a pamphlet, entitled, the Mysteries of the Good Old Cause, published in 1660, speaking of this gentleman, says, "he was the husband of that fine Mrs. Dunch; was a great favourite with the protector, and had a patent to be lord of the Lord knows what, and how little he deserves it." The family of Dunch became extinct on the death of Edmund Dunch esq. his grandson, in 1719: one of his coheiresses married Sir George Oxendon bart.

The rectory of Little Wittenham is in the deanery of Abingdon: the right of patronage has been of late litigated, and was not determined in 1802.

Sinodun-Hill, surrounded with an ancient entrenchment, is in this parish [b].

Long, or West-Wittenham, in the hundred of Ock, lies about five miles to the north-west of Wallingford: it was some times called Earls-Wittenham, probably from the family of Plessitis, Earls of Warwick, who inherited the manor from the Sandfords [c]: in 1336, it was in the Berefords [d]; afterwards in the Linneseys [e] and Staffords [f]: in 1541, Sir John Williams gave the manor of West-Wittenham to the king; it was afterwards granted to Alice Dynham [g]: it is probable, that it was

[b] See p. 214. [c] Dugdale's Baronage. [d] Esch. Edw. III. [e] Esch. Edw. III. and Ric. II. [f] Esch. Edw. IV. [g] Fee-Farm Rolls in the Augmentation Office.

soon

ſoon afterwards purchaſed by Sir Thomas White, the founder of St. John's College, in Oxford, who gave it to the preſident and ſcholars of that ſociety.

The rector and ſcholars of Exeter College are patrons of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Abingdon, and impropriators of the great tithes, which belonged formerly to the priory of Newton-Longueville, in Buckinghamſhire.

WOKINGHAM, or OAKINGHAM, in the hundred of Sunning, is a market-town, within the precincts of Windſor foreſt: the pariſh is partly in Berkſhire, and partly in an inſulated part of Wiltſhire; the town is almoſt wholly in the former; the church in the latter: the Wiltſhire part extends from the town, north-eaſt, to Bill-Hill, and compriſes about a ſixth part of the pariſh, which is divided into the three following diſtricts; the town, which is governed by an alderman and 11 capital burgeſſes; the Berkſhire part, out of the town; and the Wiltſhire part, out of the town. Wokingham is a market town by preſcription: in 1227, the biſhop of Saliſbury procured a grant from the crown, that he might hold his market at Wokingham peaceably[h]: in 1258, the biſhop had a grant of two fairs, at the feſtivals of St. Barnabas and All Saints[i]: the market is on Tueſdays, and is particularly famous for its abundant ſupply of poultry, which is chiefly purchaſed by higglers, for the London markets: the above-mentioned fairs, and another ancient fair, on the Thurſday before Lent, are ſtill continued, although very inconſiderable: two additional fairs, held on Lady-day and Michaelmas-day, were eſtabliſhed about the year 1780; but, being ill attended, the days were changed to April 5th and October 10th, with no better ſucceſs; and, inſtead of theſe new fairs, one fair has of late been advertiſed to be held on the firſt Tueſday after New Michaelmas-day, being the market day. The number of inhabitants in the town, in 1801, according to the returns then made to parliament under the Population Act, was 1380; in other parts of the pariſh, 647.

The Berkſhire part of this pariſh is within the manor of Sunning[k].

The late Sir Thomas Rich, when he ſold Sunning to Mr. Palmer, retained the manor of Evendons, in the ſouth-weſt part of this pariſh: ſince his death, it has become the property of Mr. John Roberts.

The manor of Cowcye, in Wokingham, having been parcel of the poſſeſſions of the abbot and convent of St. Peter, in Weſtminſter, was granted, after the diſſolution, to the family of Fettiplace. This eſtate is now in moieties, between Thomas Bryan Richards eſq. and the repreſentatives of his brother: they inherited it from their mother, who was heireſs of Mr. Iſaac Juſtice, of Wokingham.

[h] Cl. 11 Hen. III. [i] Cart. 42 Hen. III. [k] See the account of that pariſh, p. 379.

The manor of Beches, to the north-weſt of the town, took its name from a branch of the ancient family of De la Beche, who reſided there: the heir female of this branch brought the manor of Beches to the Whitlockes: this eſtate, and another ſmall manor to the north-eaſt of the town, called Mays, (being both within Mr. Palmer's manor of Sunning,) are now divided into eight ſhares, of which Jeremiah Crutchley eſq. and William Lamplow eſq. have ſix.

The manor of Aſhridge, which extends over moſt of the Wiltſhire part of this pariſh, belonged anciently to the Lacys, Earls of Lincoln[l]: at a later period it was in the Neville family, from whom it deſcended to Lord Braybrooke, the preſent proprietor: adjoining to it is an eſtate, called the manor of Buckhurſt, the property of Mr. Daniel Wheeler, in whoſe family it has been for a conſiderable time.—Part of Bagſhot-Heath is in this pariſh.

Thomas Godwin, biſhop of Bath and Wells, who was born at Wokingham, lies buried in the chancel of the pariſh church, where is a monument to his memory, with an epitaph, written by his ſon, Francis Godwin, biſhop of Hereford, the learned author of "*De Præſulibus Angliæ Commentarius;*" which informs us, that he died of an ague, in 1590, at his native town, whither he had removed by the advice of his phyſicians.

The dean of Saliſbury has peculiar juriſdiction in this pariſh, which is locally ſituated within the deanry of Reading: the dean is impropriator of the great and ſmall tithes, and patron of the benefice, which is a perpetual curacy.

The regiſter of this pariſh records the burial of Thomas Buck, in 1682, at the age of 115; and Hannah Lake, in 1727, at the age of 104.

The Roſe Inn, at Wokingham, is celebrated in the well-known ſong of Molly Mog, attributed to Gay[m], and printed in Dean Swift's Miſcellaneous Poems. This cruel fair, who was daughter of Mr. John Mog, the landlord of that inn, died a ſpinſter, at the age of 67. Mr. Standen, of Arborfield, who died in 1730, is ſaid to have been the enamoured ſwain to whom the ſong alludes.

The benefactions to this pariſh have been numerous and ample: the moſt remarkable are here noticed. Eight ſmall alms-houſes were founded in 1451, by John Weſtend, clerk[n]: the lands with which they are endowed, (a part of which was given by Mr. Ralph White,) now let at 16l. *per annum*.

[l] See a grant to the Grey-Friars, at Reading, in Cl. Rot. 33 Edw. I.

[m] The current tradition of the place is, that Gay, and his poetic friends, having met upon ſome occaſion, to dine at the Roſe; and being detained within doors by the weather, it was propoſed, that they ſhould write a ſong, and that each perſon preſent ſhould contribute a verſe: the ſubject propoſed was, the Fair Maid of the Inn. It is ſaid, that, by miſtake, they wrote in praiſe of Molly; but that, in fact, it was intended to apply to her ſiſter Sally, who was the greater beauty: a portrait of Gay ſtill remains at the inn.

[n] Printed Account of the Benefactions at Wokingham.

The hoſpital on Luckley Green was founded purſuant to the will of Henry Lucas eſq. who died in 1663, having bequeathed the remainder of his eſtate, ſuppoſed to be about 7000 l. for this purpoſe: the building was completed in 1665, at the expence of 2320 l.; and lands in Bedfordſhire, which then let for 240 l. *per annum*, were purchaſed for its endowment at the expence of 4810 l. The foundation conſiſts of a chaplain or maſter, whoſe ſalary was originally fixed at 50 l. *per annum*; and as many poor men as could be conveniently provided for: their allowance was formerly 10 l. *per annum*. The poor men are to be nominated by the Drapers' Company, who have the management of the eſtates, out of the pooreſt inhabitants of the foreſt diviſion in Berkſhire; and the bailiwick of Surrey, in or near the foreſt. They are now appointed by rotation out of Wokingham town, Wokingham pariſh, and 15 other pariſhes in the foreſt diviſion of Berks, and 15 pariſhes in the bailiwick of Surrey. The eſtates were ſaid to be unequal till of late, to maintain more than 10 or 11 poor brethren: at midſummer 1801, the number was increaſed to 16, their allowance fixed at 14 l. *per annum*, and the ſalary of the chaplain, who has apartments in the hoſpital, augmented to 70 l. *per annum*.

Dr. Charles Palmer, who died in 1713, founded a ſchool for 20 boys, to be qualified for apprentices to mechanic trades. Mrs. Martha Palmer, who died in 1723, founded a ſchool for 12 girls, to be called the maiden ſchool; the children to call each other by the name of ſiſter, and to be taught to read, work, ſpin, &c.

Archbiſhop Laud gave a portion of fee-farm rents, which, after deducting the land-tax, amounts to about 40 l. *per annum* to this pariſh. Every third year it is divided purſuant to the donor's intention, between three poor maidens of the age of eighteen, natives of the town and members of the church of England, who have ſerved the ſame maſter or miſtreſs for three years together: the other years it is appropriated to the apprenticing poor boys. George Staverton in 1661, gave the rent of a houſe now 12 l. 12 s. *per annum*, for the purpoſe of buying a bull to be baited and killed at Chriſtmas; the meat to be given to the poor; the offal, hide, &c. to be ſold, and the money laid out in ſhoes and ſtockings for poor children. Mr. Richard Palmer in 1664, gave a ſmall ſalary to the ſexton, (which he afterwards augmented by his will), for ringing the great bell of the church half an hour every morning at four, and every evening at eight, from the 10th of September to the eleventh of March: this ſalary, being 20 s. *per annum*, is ſtill paid by Charles Fyſhe Palmer eſq. a deſcendant of the donor, who reſides at Luckley-houſe.

WEST-WOODHAY, in the hundred of Kentbury-Eagle, lies on the borders of Hampſhire, about ſeven miles to the ſouth-weſt of Newbury, and about ſix miles to the ſouth-eaſt of Hungerford. It had anciently a market on Tueſdays, granted in

1318, to one of the barons St. Amand [o], who had then been for ſome time proprietors of the manor [p]. From the St. Amands Weſt-Woodhay paſſed by marriage to Sir Gerard Braybrooke, one of whoſe coheireſſes married Sir William Beauchamp, afterwards Lord St. Amand. John De la Pole, earl of Lincoln, had a grant of this manor in 1484 [q]: Sir Francis Cheyne, died ſeiſed of it in 1512 [r]: it continued for ſome time in his collateral deſcendants [s], and afterwards became the property of the Darrells. John Darrell eſq. of Weſt-Woodhay, was created a baronet in 1622: not long afterwards this eſtate paſſed to the family of Rudyerd, of whom it was purchaſed by the grandfather of the late Sir Robert Sloper, K. B.: it is now the property of his ſon Robert Orby Sloper eſq.

The pariſh church is a modern brick building, containing nothing remarkable: in the old church was an epitaph in memory of Sir Benjamin Rudyerd, lord of the manor, a poet, and noted parliamentary ſpeaker in the time of the Commonwealth. In 1642, he was one of the leading patriots, and it is recorded to his honor, that thinking the king had then made ſufficient conceſſions, he was urgent in perſuading the houſe to an accommodation, and warned them of the miſeries of a civil war. Sir Benjamin Rudyerd died in 1658 aged 86, leaving William Rudyerd eſq. his only ſon and heir: his epitaph is printed in Aſhmole's Collections.

Mr. Sloper is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanry of Newbury.

WOLHAMPTON, in the hundred of Theale, lies ſeven miles eaſt of Newbury: the manor which had belonged to the knights hoſpitallers, was granted in 1544 to William Wollaſcot eſq. [t], and continued in his family above two centuries: it then paſſed by marriage to the earl of Fingal, who had a ſeat there. Wolhampton is now the property and reſidence of Mrs. Elizabeth Crewe, widow of John Crewe eſq. of Boleſworth Caſtle in Cheſhire, who purchaſed the manor of Lord Fingal, about the year 1786.

The pariſh church was built by Richard de Herclond, rector, who lies buried on the north ſide of the chancel [u]. Mrs. Crewe is patron of the rectory which is in the deanry of Newbury.

WOTTON, in the hundred of Hormer, was formerly a hamlet of Cumner, and had a chapel of eaſe: it was made a ſeparate pariſh by Montagu, Earl of Abingdon, in the early part of the laſt century. The manor of Wotton and Boreſhill had paſſed with Cumner, till the late Lord Abingdon ſold them to William Walker eſq. the preſent proprietor.

[o] Cart. 11 Edw. II. [p] Eſch. Edw. I. [q] Pat. 1 Rich. III. [r] Eſch. Hen. VIII.
[s] Harleian MSS. Berkſhire Pedigrees. [t] Records in the Augmentation Office. [u] See p. 208.

YATTENDON,

YATTENDON, in the hundred of Faircroſs, lies about eight miles to the north-eaſt of Newbury, and about 11 miles weſt of Reading: it had anciently a market on Tueſdays, granted in 1258, with a fair at the feſtival of St. Nicholas, to Peter de Etyndon [u], and confirmed in 1319, to John De la Beche, with another fair at the feſtival of St. Peter, and St. Paul [x]: theſe fairs and the market have been long diſcontinued, but there is an annual fair on the 13th of October.

In the reign of King Edward I. the manor of Yattendon was held under the baronial family of Somery, by the Braundeſtons [y]: it was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of De la Beche [z], St. Amand [a], and Norris. In 1447, Sir John Norris, maſter of the great wardrobe to King Henry VI. and anceſtor of Lord Norris of Rycot, had a licence to embattle the manor houſe at Yattendon, and to impark 600 acres of land [b]: Sir John Norris married the daughter and heir of Richard Merbrooke of Yattendon [c], who, it is probable, poſſeſſed the manor after the St. Amands; Sir William Norris his grandſon, who was alſo of Yattendon, was eſquire of the body to King Edward IV. From the family of Norris this manor paſſed to a younger branch of the Berties, Earls of Lindſey, by the marriage of the hon. Captain Henry Bertie, with Philadelphia daughter and heir of Sir Edward Norris: it was ſold in 1784, by Capt. Peregrine Bertie, brother of the late Earl of Abingdon, to Sir John Gallini, whoſe ſon John Andrea Gallini eſq. is the preſent proprietor.

The old manſion, built by Sir John Norris in 1447, has been long ago pulled down: Mr. Gallini has a houſe on the ſite, in which he reſides.

The pariſh church was built by John Norreys eſq. as recorded in an inſcription, formerly to be ſeen in the window, a copy of which is preſerved in Aſhmole's Collections: it is probable that this John Norreys or Norris is the ſame perſon, who having been afterwards knighted, built the manor-houſe. The only remarkable monument in the church is that of Sir John Norris, who died in 1597, diſcontented, as Anthony Wood obſerves, at not having been rewarded according to his worth. Our hiſtorians bear teſtimony to the truth of the encomiums in the following epitaph,

"In memory of Sir John Norreys knight, the ſecond ſon to Henry, the firſt Lord Norreys of Ricot, who in the 14th of Elizabeth, being ſent embaſſador into France, and managing his buſineſs with prudence and honour, was by reaſon thereof, and his father's ſuffering for her mother's ſake, advanced to the dignity of a peer of this realme. This Sir John Norreys, that valiant and expert ſoldier, ſo famous in his time for his valour and military knowledge, was firſt trained up in thoſe

[u] Cart. 42 Hen. III. [x] Cart. 12 Edw. II. [y] Eſch. Edw. I. [z] Eſch. Edw. III. &c.
[a] Eſch. Rich. II. [b] Cart. 25 and 26 Hen. VI. [c] Berkſhire Pedigrees, Brit. Mus.

exercises in the civil wars of France, under Admiral Coligni; next in Ireland, under Walter, Earl of Essex; then served in the Netherlands, under Matthias, Archduke of Austria; after that, under John Duke of Loreyne; next under Count William of Nassau, and in the 27th of Elizabeth, 12th of August, was by the queen constituted colonel-general of all the horse and foot, then to pass out of England for the relief of Antwerp, then besieged by the Spaniards; before the end of which month he had another commission from Count Maurice of Nassau, and the same year was empowered to treat with the States General of the United Provinces, for the entertaining such bands of the English foot, as by the queen's instructions were appointed to serve in those parts. Several commissions he likewise had from Robert, Earl of Leicester, after he was constituted general of the English auxiliaries in those provinces; viz. two in 28 Elizabeth, and one in 29 Elizabeth. In 30 Elizabeth, being then president of the council in the province of Munster in Ireland, he had a commission, bearing date 11th of October, giving him authority to constitute such principal officers, as well by sea as land, as he should think fit for the withstanding all hostile attempts, and for the defence and the protection of that realm. In 33 Elizabeth, he was constituted captain-general of those English auxiliaries which were sent in aid of King Henry the Fourth of France, against his rebellious subjects in Britany; and having deported himself with great prudence and courage in all those eminent employments, to the no little honour of the English nation, as well as his own name, he departed this life at his house in Yatendon, July 3, 1597, and in the 68th year of his age".

"Memoriæ gratiâ monumentum
Restauravit Norreys Bertie Armiger."

Mr. Carte, who lies buried in Yattendon church, without any memorial, wrote the greater part of his History of England at this village[d]; he afterwards removed to Caldecot-house. The following entry of his burial was inserted in the register, by Dr. Bellas, then rector of Yattendon. "The Rev. Thomas Carte, editor of Thuanus's History of his own times, and author of a life of the great Duke of Ormond, and a general history of England, by which, and other pieces, he approved himself one of the best writers of his time, died at Caldecot near Abingdon, on Tuesday April 2, and was buried at Yattendon, in a vault on the north side of the chancel, the 11th, 1574, by me, George Bellas."

Mr. Hory is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanry of Reading.

The manor of *Everington*, a large hamlet in this parish, was successively in the families of De la Beche, Norris, and Bertie, and is now the property of J. A. Gallini esq.

[d] From the information of Dr. Bellas, late vicar of Basildon.

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

BEDFORD SHIRE
MIDDLESEX
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
NORTHAMPTON SHIRE
OXFORD SHIRE

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

## INTRODUCTION.

### ETYMOLOGY.

CAMDEN derives the name of this county from *Bucken*, more uſually ſpelt by the Saxons *Boccen* or *Buccen*, Beechtrees: Spelman prefers the derivation of it from the ſame word *Buccen*, in another acceptation, as ſignifying bucks or deer. It is evident that, whatever be its etymology, the county derived its name from the town of Buckingham. As far as local circumſtances confirm the conjecture of theſe learned antiquaries, the preference muſt be given to the latter; for although Beechwoods abound in ſome parts of Buckinghamſhire, yet they are remote from the county town, and the ſoil of its neighbourhood is not favourable to their growth. A more ſatisfactory etymology than either ſeems to have been overlooked: it is well known that charter lands were anciently called by the Saxons *Boch*-land, in contradiſtinction to copyholds, which were called *Folk*-land: in Domeſday-book, and other ancient records, the county town is called Boch-ing-ham. Many villages of the name of Buckland occur in various parts of the kingdom, all of which are called in old records *Boch*-land, i. e. literally charter-land: *Boch-ing*, under the ſame conſtruction, will be a charter-meadow; the meaning of *ham*, is well known to be a manſion or vill*.

### *Ancient Inhabitants and Government.*

CAMDEN ſuppoſes this county to have been inhabited in the time of the Britons, by a people called the *Cattieuchlani*, whom he conjectures to have been the ſame as the *Caſſii*; and that they were the ſubjects of Caſſivellaunus. Mr. Whitaker, from an attentive conſideration of the works of Richard of Cirenceſter, is of opinion, that only that part of Buckinghamſhire which borders on Bedfordſhire was originally inhabited by the *Caſſii*, but that they afterwards ſeized upon the territories of the

* The name of Folkingham ſeems to have been formed in the ſame manner.

*Dobuni*, who inhabited the other parts of Buckinghamſhire, extending to the weſtern frontier of the *Caſſii*: this part of Buckinghamſhire he ſuppoſes to have been originally poſſeſſed by the *Ancalites*, but afterwards conquered by the *Dobuni*[a]. When Britain firſt became a province of Rome, Buckinghamſhire formed a part of *Britannia ſuperior*: in the ſubſequent diviſion of the province, it was included in the diſtrict of *Flavia Cæſarienſis*. During the Saxon Heptarchy, it was under the government of the Kings of Mercia, and after the union of the heptarchy, became compriſed within the diſtrict called *Dene-lege*, or the Daniſh diſtrict.

## *Hiſtorical Events.*

THE early part of the hiſtory of this kingdom is involved in ſo much obſcurity, that it is very difficult to aſcertain the locality of its events. The neighbourhood of Kimble is ſuppoſed to have been the ſcene of that action with the Romans, in which the two ſons of Cunobeline, or Cymbeline, were defeated by Aulus Plautius, and Togodumnus, one of them, ſlain[b]. The conjecture, that the ſtrong poſt, on the ſide of the Chiltern hills, called Kimble Caſtle, was Cymbeline's palace, ſeems very plauſible; the ancient name of Kimble, as it occurs in records, was Kynebel or Cunobel: in the Survey of Domeſday, it is written, perhaps corruptly, Chenebella. Cherſley, in this county, is ſuppoſed by ſome writers to have been the ſite of a battle, which Cerdic and Cynric fought againſt the Britons in 527; Biſhop Gibſon, ſays that he ſhould rather have fought for it in the kingdom of the Weſt-Saxons, if any place of the name could there be found, ſince the ſame commanders obtained a victory over the Britons eight years before, at Cerdicesford, (now Charford,) in Hampſhire[c]. Mr. Wiſe ſuppoſes the great croſs, (called White-leaf Croſs,) cut on the ſide of the chalk hills, near Riſborough, to be the memorial of ſome victory of the Saxons over the Danes; and that the name of the neighbouring village of Bledlow is derived from *Blod-law*, the bloody hill. Ickford, near Thame, is ſuppoſed by ſome antiquaries, to have been the place where the treaty was ſigned by King Edward and the Danes in 907; but Biſhop Gibſon is more inclined to fix it in the new foreſt[d].

The firſt hiſtorical event connected with this county, which reſts on better evidence than conjecture, is that of King Edward the Elder building a fortreſs on each ſide of the Ouſe at Buckingham, where he ſtaid four weeks[e]: Bromton places this

[a] Hiſtory of Mancheſter, vol. I. 8vo. p. 95, 96.

[b] Gough's Camden I. 319. Biſhop Kennet, in his Parochial Antiquities, ſays, that from its conſequences in the ſubmiſſion of the *Dobuni*, this action muſt have been ſomewhere, "in theſe parts," that is Buckinghamſhire, or Oxfordſhire. Browne Willis in his Hiſtory of Buckingham, quoting the Parochial Antiquities very erroneouſly, ſays poſitively that the battle was fought on the banks of the Ouſe, at or near Buckingham. [c] Gloſſary to the Saxon. Chron. [d] Ibid.

[e] Decem Scriptores I. 834.

event in 912 [f], the Saxon Chronicle in 918. Ralph Higden tells us, that the Danes raiſed fortreſſes on both ſides of the Ouſe, at Buckingham, in 913 [g]. In 921 [h], or as Florence of Worceſter ſays, in 918, the Danes committed great depredations between Ayleſbury and the foreſt of Bernwood. It is ſaid by Bromton in his Chronicle, that Colnbrook was burnt by the Danes in 1006 [i]: no other author mentions the fact, and it ſeems evidently to have been a miſtake for Cholſey in Berkſhire, which was deſtroyed by the Danes at the ſame time that they burnt Wallingford and Reading.

Hanſlape Caſtle, which was ſituated at Caſtlethorp, where its veſtiges ſtill remain, was held againſt King John in his wars with the barons: it was taken in 1216, by his favourite general, Fawkes de Brent, and demoliſhed [k]. In 1233, Richard Sward, with other foreigners, being in rebellion, laid waſte the lands of Richard Earl of Cornwall near Brill, and burnt his houſes [l].

At the commencement of the civil war, in the 17th century, Buckinghamſhire was one of the firſt counties that joined in an aſſociation for mutual defence, on the ſide of the parliament, who, in the early part of the war, had a garriſon on a commanding ſpot at Brill, on the borders of Oxfordſhire. The celebrated Hampden, made an unſucceſsful attack on this garriſon in 1642 [m]. Among the terms for a ceſſation of hoſtilities, as delivered to the king in March 1643, it was propoſed that the royal forces ſhould not advance nearer to Ayleſbury than Brill, nor thoſe of the parliament nearer to Oxford than Ayleſbury [n]. In the courſe of that year, the propoſals for accommodation having unhappily failed, Newport-Pagnell was for a ſhort time garriſoned by the king's troops, but was abandoned by Sir Lewis Dyve, on the approach of the Earl of Eſſex: it afterwards proved a very uſeful garriſon to the parliament [o]. Brill was abandoned by the king in the ſpring of 1643: about the ſame time Prince Rupert attacked the parliamentary quarters at High-Wycombe, with ſome ſucceſs [p]. The Earl of Eſſex quartered his army for a conſiderable time about Ayleſbury and Thame, in the ſummer of the ſame year [q]. In Auguſt there was a grand rendezvous of the parliamentary army near Ayleſbury [r]. In 1644, the king fixed his head-quarters for ſome time at Buckingham [s]. Borſtall-houſe, a garriſon of the king's in this county, on the borders of Oxfordſhire, was evacuated in June 1644, and immediately taken poſſeſſion of by the parliament, who had found it a very troubleſome neighbour to their garriſon at Ayleſbury [t]: it was retaken by Col. Gage, after the royaliſts had for a while repented their want of policy in aban-

[f] Decem Scriptores I. 834. [g] Hiſt. Ang. Scrip. III. 261. [h] Saxon Chron. 107. [i] Decem Script. I. 886. [k] Holinſhed. [l] M. Paris, p. 332. [m] Clarendon 8vo. edit. II. 166. [n] Ibid. II. 168. [o] Ibid. II. 292. [p] Ibid. II. 250. [q] Ibid. II. 292. [r] Ibid. II. 243. [s] Ibid. II. 496. [t] Ibid. II. 493.

doning it. Greenland-houſe, another garriſon of the king's in this county, being ſituated on the banks of the Thames, near Henley, was ſurrendered to general Browne in the month of July following, after ſuſtaining a very ſevere ſiege[u]. During the next year (1645) the Buckinghamſhire garriſons on both ſides remained as they were; Skippon, and afterwards Fairfax, having attacked Borſtall-houſe without ſucceſs[x]. The parliamentary army marched from thence to Marſh-Gibwen, Brickhill, and Buckingham[y]. In 1646, Borſtall-houſe, the only remaining garriſon of the king in this county, was ſurrendered to the parliament[z]. In 1649, we find this county petitioning parliament to aboliſh tithes, manors, &c.[a]

*Ancient and modern Diviſion of Buckinghamſhire.*

When the ſurvey of Domeſday was taken, this county was divided into eighteen hundreds: there are now only eight, which compoſe ſeparate diſtricts. The modern hundred of Buckingham includes the ancient hundreds of Rouelai, Stodfald and Lamua. The three ancient hundreds of Boneſtou, Sigelai, and Moleſtou, are now called Dunſtow, Segloe, and Mulſo. The late George Wrighte eſq. of Gayhurſt, was keeper of theſe hundreds under the crown, but they are not conſidered as ſeparate diſtricts, being compriſed within the general name of Newport hundred. The hundreds of Eleſberie, Stanes, and Riſeberge, now compriſe one diſtrict, called the three hundreds of Ayleſbury. The ancient hundreds of Coteſlau, Mureſlai, and Erlai, are included in the hundred of Cotſlow. The hundreds of Eſſedene, Voteſdone, and Tiche ſſele are compriſed in the modern hundred of Aſhendon, excepting that Adſtock, formerly in Voteſdone, is now in the hundred of Buckingham, and Hoggeſton and Creſtlow in that of Cotſlow. The hundreds of Duſtenburgh and Stoches are now called Deſborough and Stoke. The hundred of Burnham preſerves its ancient name and extent, excepting that Farnham and Eton, which were formerly compriſed in it, are now in the hundred of Stoke. Deſborough, Stoke, and Burnham are the three Chiltern hundreds, the cuſtody of which is well known to be a nominal office, accepted by any member of parliament who wiſhes to vacate his ſeat.

The following is a liſt of the manors noticed in the Survey of Domeſday, with the modern names, as far as they could be aſcertained, and the hundreds in which they were anciently ſituated.

[u] Clarendon II. p. 529. [x] Ibid. II. 655. and Heath's Chronicle, p. 76. [y] Heath, p. 7, and Clarendon II. 655. [z] Heath, p. 111. [a] Paper called the Moderator, Feb. 1649.

Achecote

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Achecote | Edgcot | Rouelai. |
| Achelei [b] | Akeley | |
| Achelei | Oakley | Tichefſele. |
| Ambretone | Emberton | Moleſlou. |
| Aſſedone | Aſhendon | Eſſedene. |
| Becentone | Bechampton | Rouelai. |
| Begrave | Bedgrove, in Weſton-Turville | Stanes. |
| Berlau | Suppoſed by Mr. Langley to be Little-Marlow | Duſtenburgh. |
| Bertone | Barton | Rouelai. |
| Beteſdene | Bidleſden | Stodfald. |
| Bichedone | Beachington | Eſſeden. |
| Bledelau | Bledlow | Riſeberge. |
| Bocheland | Buckland | Eleſberie. |
| Bochingheham | Buckingham | |
| Bovenia | Boveney, in Burnham | Burneham. |
| Bradeham | Bradenham | Duſtenburgh. |
| Bradewelle | Bradwell | Sigelai. |
| Brichelle | The Brickhills | Moleſlou. |
| Broch | Suppoſed by Mr. Langley to have been in Medmenham | Duſtenburgh. |
| Brotone | Broughton | Moleſlou. |
| Brunhelle | Brill | Eſſedene. |
| Burneham | Burnham | Burneham. |
| Burtone | Boreton, in Buckingham | Rouelai. |
| Caldecote | Caldecot, in Newport-Pagnell | Sigelai. |
| Calvretone | Calverton | Sigelai. |
| Cavrefelle | Caversfield | Rouelai. |
| Celdeſtane | Shalleſton | Stodfald. |
| Celfunde | The Chalfonts | Burneham. |
| Cerſelai | Cherſley | Eſſedene. |
| Ceſtreham | The Cheſhams | Burneham. |
| Cetendone | Cheddington | Erlai. |
| Ceteode | Chetwode | Rouelai. |
| Chaveſcote | Gawcot, in Buckingham | |
| Chenebella | The Kimbles | Stanes. |
| Chentone | Quainton | Eſſedene. |
| Cicelai | Chichley | Moleſlou. |
| Ciltone | Chilton | Tichefſele. |
| Claindone | The Claydons | Votefdone and Lamua. |
| Clyſtone | Clifton-Reynes | Moleſlou. |

[b] In folio 147, *b.* of the Survey, this manor, and thoſe of Lanport, Lelincheſtane, and Mortone, which were certainly all in the hundred of Stodfald, appear as if in the hundred of Mureſlei, from the neglect of the tranſcriber, in not having inſerted the words, "In Stodfald hund," before the manor of Lanport, which occurs the firſt of the four.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Coblingcote | Cublington | Coteſlou. |
| Craulai | North-Crawley | Moleſtou. |
| Credendone | Crendon | Ticheſſele. |
| Creſſelai | Creſtlow | Voteſdone. |
| Crouſtone | Crofton in Wing | Coteſlau. |
| Daceta | Datchet | Stoches. |
| Daneham | Denham | Stoches. |
| Danitone | Dinton | Stanes. |
| Dileherſt | Suppoſed by Mr. Langley to be Fingeſt | Duſtenburgh. |
| Ditone | Ditton, in Stoke Poges | Stoches. |
| Dodeford | Dodford, in Stow | Stodfald. |
| Dodintone | Dunton | Coteſlau. |
| Dornei | Dorney | Burneham. |
| Dortone | Dourton | Ticheſſele. |
| Draitone | The Draytons | Mureſlei. |
| Eddinberge | Edleſborough | Erlai. |
| Edeſtocha | Adſtock | Voteſdone. |
| Edintone | Addington | Lamua. |
| Eie | Kingſey | Ticheſſele. |
| Eileſberie | Ayleſbury | Eleſberie. |
| Elmodeſham | Agmondeſham, or Amerſham | Burneham. |
| Eſenberge | Elleſborough | Eleſberie. |
| Eſtone | The Aſtons | Eleſberie and Erlai. |
| Etone | Water-Eaton, in Bletchley | Sigelai. |
| Ettone | Eton | Burneham. |
| Eureſel | Everſaw, in Bidleſden | Stodfald. |
| Evinghehou | Ivinghoe | Erlai. |
| Evreham | Iver | Stoches. |
| Falelie | Fawley | Duſtenburgh. |
| Fernham | Farnham-Royal | Stoches. |
| Foxeſcote | Foxcote | Stodfald. |
| Gatehurſt | Gayhurſt, or Gothurſt | Boneſtou. |
| Greneſburga | Granborough | Voteſdone. |
| Grennedone | Grendon | Eſſedene. |
| Hadenham | Haddenham | Eleſberie. |
| Haltone | Halton | Stanes. |
| Hambledene | Hambleden | Duſtenburgh. |
| Hameſele | Hanſlape | Boneſtou. |
| Hanechdene[a] | | Duſtenburgh. |
| Hardwiche | Hardwick | Coteſlau. |
| Haſelie | | Rouelai. |
| Havreſham | Haverſham | Boneſtou. |

[a] Qu. Weſt-Wycombe, which was anciently called Haneringdon?

Helpeſtorp

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Helpeſtorp | Helpſthorp, or Elſtrop, in Drayton-Beauchamp | Mureſlai. |
| Herdewelle | Hartwell | Stanes. |
| Herouldmede, Herulfmede, or Horelmede | Hardmead | Moleſlou. |
| Hereworde | The Harwoods | Mureſlei. |
| Heſintone | Eaſington, in Chilton | Ticheſſele. |
| Hibeſtanes | Ipſton, partly in Oxfordſhire | Duſtenburgh. |
| Hocheſtone | Hoggeſton | Voteſdone. |
| Hocſaga | Hogſhaw | Voteſdone. |
| Holdene | | Coteſlau. |
| Holendone | Hollington, in Soulbury | Coteſlau. |
| Horſedene | Horſendon | Riſeberge. |
| Hortone | Horton, in Edleſborough | Erlai. |
| Hortune | Horton | Stoches. |
| Hucham | Hitcham | Burneham. |
| Huchadene | Hitchenden | Duſtenburgh. |
| Iford | Ickford | Ticheſſele. |
| Ileſdon, or Uleſdon | Hilleſdon | Rouelai. |
| Imer | Ilmer | Ticheſſele. |
| Lanport [d] | Langport, in Stow | |
| Langrave | | Coteſlau. |
| Lateberie, or Lateſburie | Lathbury | Boneſtou. |
| Lavvendene | Lavendon | Boneſtou. |
| Lechampſtede | Lekhampſted | Stodfald. |
| Lede | Lude, in Wooburn | Duſtenburgh. |
| Ledinberge | Lethenborough, in Buckingham | Rouelai. |
| Lelincheſtane [e] | Lillingſton-Dayrell | |
| Leſa | | Ticheſſele. |
| Lincelada | Linchlade | Coteſlau. |
| Lineford | The Linfords | Boneſtou and Sigelai. |
| Litecote | Littlecot, or Litcot, in Stewkley | Mureſlei. |
| Lochintone | Loughton | Sigelai. |
| Lotegarſer | Ludgerſhall | Eſſedene. |
| Medemeham | Medmenham | Duſtenburgh. |
| Mentemore [f] | Mentmore | Coteſlau. |
| Merlau | Marlow | Duſtenburgh. |
| Merſa | Marſh-Gibwen | Lamua. |
| Merſtone | Fleet and North-Marſton | Voteſdone. |
| Mideltone | Milton-Keynes | Moleſlou. |
| Miſſedene | The Miſſendens | Stanes. |
| Miſſeworde | Marſworth | Erlai. |
| Moleſlou, or Moleſhou | Mulſo | Moleſlou. |
| Moretone [f] | Maid's-Morton | |

[d] [e] [f] See Note [b].

Mureſlai,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mureſlai, Muſelei, or Murſalai | Mureſley | Mureſlei. |
| Nedreham | | Stanes. |
| Neuport | Newport-Pagnell | Sigelai. |
| Neutone[g] | | Rouelai. |
| Olnei | Olney | Boneſtou. |
| Oltone | Qu. Wotton | Eſſedene. |
| Olvonge | Oving | Eſſedene. |
| Optone | Upton | Burneham. |
| Pateberie | Padbury | Lamua. |
| Pinceletorne | Pightelſthorn, or Pitſton | Erlai. |
| Policote | Policote, in Aſhenden | Eſſedene. |
| Preſtone | Preſton-Biſſet | Rouelai. |
| Querendone | Quarendon | Voteſdone. |
| Radeclive[h] | Radcliffe | |
| Raveneſton | Ravenſton | Boneſtou. |
| Riſeberge | The Riſboroughs | Riſeberge. |
| Santeſdone | Sanderton | Duſtenburgh. |
| Sceldene | Salden, in Mureſley | Mureſlai. |
| Senelai | Shenley | Sigelai. |
| Sernitone | Sherrington | Moleſlou. |
| Sevineſtone | Simpſon | Sigelai. |
| Sibdone | Shipton-Lee, in Quainton | Eſſedene. |
| Sincleberia | Singleborough, in Great-Harwood | Mureſlei. |
| Slaptone | Slapton | Erlai. |
| Sobintone | Shabbington | Ticheſſele. |
| Soleberie | Soulbury | Coteſlau. |
| Sortelai | | Eſſedene. |
| Stanes | Stone | Stanes. |
| Stanton | Stanton-Barry | Sigelai. |
| Stivelai | Stewkley | Mureſlei. |
| Stoches | The Stokes | Stoches, Boneſtou, and Eleſberie. |
| Stow | Stow | Stodfald. |
| Stradford | Water-Stratford | Stodfald. |
| Sudcote | | Stanes. |
| Sueneberne | Swanbourn | Mureſlei. |
| Tedingwiche | Tingewick | Stodfald. |
| Tedlingham, or Telingham | Tyringham | Boneſtou and Sigelai. |
| Ternitone | Thornton | Rouelai. |
| Thapeſlau | Taplow | Burneham. |
| Ticheford | Tickford, in Newport-Pagnell | Sigelai. |

[g] This manor, which ſeems to have been erroneouſly inſerted in the Survey as in Rouelai hundred, muſt be either Newton-Longueville, or Newton-Bloſſomville.

[h] In the hundred of Stodfald, but erroneouſly entered in the Survey, as in Mureſlei, (fol. 152. b.) through neglect of inſerting the name of the hundred before Dodeford.

Tilleberie

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tilleberie [i] | | Duſtenburgh. |
| Tochingewiche | Tetchwick, in Ludgerſhall | Eſſedene. |
| Torneberge | Thornborough | Lamua. |
| Tuveſtone | Turweſton | Stodfald. |
| Tveverde | Twyford | Lamua. |
| Ulchetone | Woughton | Sigelai. |
| Ulfietone | The Woolſtons | Sigelai. |
| Upetone | Upton, in Dinton | Stanes. |
| Voteſdone | Waddeſdon | Voteſdone. |
| Waborne | Woobourn | Duſtenburgh. |
| Wadone | Whaddon | Mureſlei. |
| Wadruge, or Waldruge | Waldridge, in Dinton | |
| Wandoure | Wendover | Eleſburie. |
| Wavendone | Wavendon | Moleſlou. |
| Weneſlai | Winſlow | Mureſlei. |
| Wermelle | Wormenhall | Ticheſſele. |
| Weſtberie | Weſtbury | Stodfald. |
| Weſtone | The Weſtons | Boneſtou and Stanes. |
| Wichendon | The Winchendons | Eſſedene. |
| Wicherche | Whitchurch | Coteſlau. |
| Wicumbe | Wycombe | Duſtenburgh. |
| Wireceſberie | Wyrardiſbury | Stoches. |
| Witehunge | Wing | Coteſlau. |
| Withungrave | Wingrave | Coteſlau. |
| Wlverintone | Wolverton | Sigelai. |

The pariſhes of Aſtwood, Beaconsfield, Bierton, Bletchley, Borſtall, Brayfield, Caſtlethorp, Cholſbury, Cuddington, Filgrave, Fingeſt, Fulmere, Grove, Great and Little-Hampden, Hawridge, Hedgerley, Hedſor, Hulcot, Iſelhamſted, Langley, Lee, Okeney, Penn, Petſoe, Pitchcote, Radnage, Tottenhoe, Turville, Walton, Wexham, Wyllien, and a great number of hamlets and manors, are not mentioned in the Survey.

## *Eccleſiaſtical Diviſion.*

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE lies within the dioceſe of Lincoln, and is ſubject to an archdeacon, who takes his title from the county. It is divided into ſeven deaneries, Buckingham, Burnham, Mureſley, Newport, Waddeſdon, Wendover, and Wycombe. Four pariſhes (Halton, Monks-Riſborough, Wotton-Underwood, and Little-Brickhill) are in the peculiar juriſdiction of the archbiſhop of Canterbury; four others (Aſton-Abbots, Granborough, Little-Harwood, and Winſlow) are

[i] Browne Willis ſuppoſes it to be Ravenſmere manor, in Hitchenden.

in the dioceſe of London, and in the juriſdiction of the archdeacon of St. Alban's, to the monaſtery of which place they formerly belonged. The number of pariſhes in this county, according to Camden, who quotes cardinal Wolſey's liſt, was in his time 185. The preſent number, as nearly as they can be aſcertained, is 201, including eight which have parochial chapels dependant on other churches, and two others, (Creſtlow and Hogſhaw,) whoſe churches were pulled down by Cornelius Holland, one of King Charles's judges, and have never been rebuilt. Nine of the preſent pariſh churches were formerly chapels of eaſe. Ekely, Filgrave, Okeney, and Petſoe, which were formerly ſeparate pariſhes, have ceaſed to be conſidered as ſuch, and have been united to others, their churches having gone to decay.

The donatives of Brill and Borſtall are united, as are thoſe of Dourton and Aſhendon, and thoſe of Barton and Chetwode; Gothurſt was conſolidated with Stoke-Goldington in 1736. The curacies of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen, in Stony-Stratford, were conſolidated after the church of St. Mary Magdalen had been burnt down in 1742; Great-Hampden and Great-Kimble were conſolidated in 1799.

Of the pariſhes in this county, 79 are vicarages, and 29 curacies, or donatives. The great tithes of 92 of theſe pariſhes are in lay hands, and moſt of the remainder are held by lay leſſees.

The chapels of eaſe, excluſively of thoſe already mentioned, as being parochial, are only ſix in number. There were formerly chapels at Addingrave, Aſton in Ivinghoe, Bragenham, Dagnall, Eaſington, Everſaw, Eythorp, Ford, Gawcot, Hollowick in Medmenham, Hundridge, Litcote, Loughton-Parva, Owlſwick, and Rowſham.

*Monaſteries and Hoſpitals.*

The Benedictine monks had priories at Snellſhall and Bradwell; there was an alien priory of the ſame order at Aſcot in Wing. The Benedictine nuns had priories at Ankerwyke, in Wyrardiſbury, at Little-Marlow, and at Mureſley, or St. Margaret's, in the pariſh of Ivinghoe. There were alien priories of Cluniac monks at Tykeford or Tickford, near Newport-Pagnell, and at Newton Longueville: the Ciſtercian monks had abbies at Bidleſden and Medmenham: the Auſtin canons had abbies at Miſſenden and Nutley, and priories at Chetwode and Ravenſton: the Auſtin nuns had a priory at Burnham: the Premonſtratenſian canons had an abbey at Lavenden. The ſociety of Bon-hommes had a college at Aſheridge, in the pariſh of Pitſton, on the borders of Hertfordſhire, being the only houſe of the order in England, excepting that at Edindon, in Wiltſhire. The Grey Friars had a houſe at Ayleſbury; the Knights Hoſpitallers a preceptory at Hogſhaw. It is not known to what order the ancient monaſteries at North-Crawley, and at Gore,

in the parish of Hanslape, belonged; they were destroyed at a very early period. At Ludgershall was an ancient alien hospital subordinate to that of Santingfield in Normandy: an ancient hospital at Buckingham, two at Aylesbury, two at High-Wycombe, and one at Stony-Stratford, have all been long ago destroyed. There were three ancient hospitals at Newport-Pagnell, two of which were destroyed at an early period; the other having also been decayed, was re-founded by Queen Anne, consort of King James I. and is still existing. The royal college of Eton, founded by King Henry VI. retains its ancient flourishing state.

*Market and Borough Towns.*

This county has no city: it sends 14 members to parliament; two for the county; two for the county-town; and two for each of the boroughs of Aylesbury, Amersham, Great-Marlow, Wendover, and Chipping-Wycombe. Amersham, Marlow, and Wendover, recovered the right of sending members to parliament, which had been disused for more that 400 years, by a petition to the House of Commons in the reign of James the First.

The summer assizes for this county are held at Buckingham, the Lent assizes at Aylesbury. In the reign of Henry VIII. they were held wholly at Aylesbury, through the interest of Chief Justice Baldwin, who resided near that town, previously to which it seems that they were held (at least alternately) at the county town; for, in the inscription over the door of the goal, Lord Cobham is said to have restored the assizes to Buckingham. It appears, nevertheless, that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and in the early part of the 17th century, the assizes were not held at either place, but at Little-Brickhill[k], which in Saxton's map, published during that period, is called the Assize town. The assizes were held at High-Wycombe, eleven times between 1683 and 1712. The quarter sessions are always held at Aylesbury.

The market-towns in this county are 14 in number: Agmondesham or Amersham, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Chesham, Ivinghoe, Great-Marlow, Newport-Pagnell, Olney, Princes-Risborough, Stony-Stratford, Wendover, Winslow, and High or Chipping-Wycombe. Colnbrook and Fenny-Stratford are generally enumerated among the market-towns of this county, their markets, however, which were held by charter, have been for several years disused: there was lately an intention of reviving that at Fenny-Stratford, but it did not take place. The markets at Beaconsfield, Ivinghoe, and Risborough, are so far decayed, that they retain little more than the name. The principal markets in the county are those of Buckingham, Aylesbury, and Wycombe: Aylesbury is the most dis-

[k] See the account of that parish in the Parochial Topography.

 tinguished,

tinguiſhed, both for its market and fairs, which are ſix in number; Marlow fair is much celebrated for its ſhow of horſes.

The following places had charters for markets, which have been long ago diſuſed: Bidleſden, Little Brickhill, Burnham, Crendon, Haddenham, Hambleden, Hanſlape, Great-Harwood, Hoggeſton, Iver, Lavenden, Linchlade, Mureſley, Tingewick, Snelſhall in the pariſh of Whaddon, Whitchurch, and Wormenhall. The market at Haddenham, which was granted in 1294, was diſcontinued in 1301, in conſequence of a law-ſuit commenced by the biſhop of Lincoln, who found that it was detrimental to his market at the neighbouring town of Thame, in Oxfordſhire.

*Population.*

In the year 1377, the number of perſons in this county charged to a poll-tax, from which the clergy, children, and paupers, were exempted, was 24,672. It appears by the returns made under the act of parliament, for aſcertaining the population of this kingdom in 1801, that there were 20,443 inhabited houſes, and 543 uninhabited houſes in Buckinghamſhire: the total number of inhabitants is ſtated to be 107,444, of whom 52,094 were males, and 55,350 females. Of this total number there were 25,083 employed in agriculture, and 20,138 in trade, manufactures or handicrafts.

The following account of the number of houſes, families, and perſons in each pariſh, is taken from the above-mentioned return, and arranged alphabetically.

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Inhabitants. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Addington | 10 | 0 | 15 | 93 |
| Adſtock | 56 | 1 | 61 | 289 |
| Akeley | 41 | 1 | 50 | 245 |
| Amerſham | 397 | 7 | 442 | 2130 |
| Aſhendon | 48 | 1 | 48 | 248 |
| Aſton-Abbots | 55 | 0 | 60 | 276 |
| Aſton-Clinton | 122 | 2 | 130 | 584 |
| ——St. Leonard's in Aſton-Clinton | 22 | 0 | 24 | 137 |
| Aſton-Sandford | 13 | 1 | 15 | 71 |
| Aſtwood | 32 | 0 | 32 | 160 |
| Ayleſbury | 675 | 22 | 668 | 3082 |
| Barton-Hartſhorne | 17 | 0 | 19 | 100 |
| Beaconsfield | 240 | 11 | 302 | 1149 |
| Bechampton | 43 | 2 | 43 | 187 |
| Bierton | 110 | 2 | 113 | 518 |

Bletchley

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Inhabitants. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bletchley | 64 | 2 | 77 | 355 |
| —— Water-Eaton in Bletchley | 41 | 0 | 41 | 214 |
| Bledlow | 110 | 2 | 113 | 566 |
| —— Ridge in Bledlow | 57 | 0 | 59 | 351 |
| Borſtall | 34 | 1 | 40 | 179 |
| Bradenham | 33 | 0 | 34 | 170 |
| Bradwell | 52 | 0 | 76 | 255 |
| Brayfield | 20 | 1 | 23 | 82 |
| Bow-Brickhill | 97 | 0 | 94 | 431 |
| Great-Brickhill | 128 | 1 | 128 | 560 |
| Little-Brickhill | 80 | 4 | 94 | 385 |
| Brill | 190 | 3 | 202 | 859 |
| Broughton | 32 | 0 | 36 | 157 |
| Buckingham and its hamlets | 531 | 14 | 617 | 2605 |
| Buckland | 39 | 0 | 71 | 288 |
| Burnham | 258 | 17 | 327 | 1354 |
| ——Boveney in Burnham | 28 | 1 | 33 | 165 |
| Calverton | 64 | 0 | 72 | 321 |
| Caſtlethorp | 56 | 0 | 65 | 260 |
| Caverſfield | 15 | 0 | 15 | 94 |
| Chalfont-St. Giles | 143 | 11 | 152 | 762 |
| Chalfont-St. Peter | 192 | 5 | 220 | 1174 |
| Cheddington | 48 | 4 | 63 | 273 |
| Cherſley | 46 | 1 | 50 | 214 |
| Cheſham town | 370 | 9 | 379 | 1910 |
| —— Aſhley Green, and Billington (Hamlets of Cheſham.) | 101 | 7 | 115 | 559 |
| —— Aſhridge, Chartridge, and Hundridge (Hamlets of Cheſham.) | 116 | 12 | 123 | 626 |
| ——Botley Green, Latimers and Water-ſide (Hamlets of Cheſham.) | 184 | 4 | 198 | 874 |
| Cheſham-Bois | 23 | 1 | 29 | 135 |
| Chetwode | 20 | 0 | 27 | 123 |
| Cheynies | 88 | 0 | 105 | 423 |
| Chichley | 39 | 1 | 39 | 189 |
| Chilton | 63 | 2 | 63 | 316 |
| Choleſbury | 22 | 2 | 25 | 122 |
| Eaſt-Claydon | 45 | 0 | 61 | 238 |
| Middle-Claydon | 24 | 0 | 24 | 93 |
| Steeple-Claydon | 104 | 0 | 147 | 646 |
| Clifton-Reynes | 45 | 2 | 50 | 221 |
| North-Crawley | 75 | 2 | 129 | 617 |
| Crendon | 205 | 4 | 241 | 991 |
| Creſtlow | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Cublington | 59 | 1 | 59 | 271 |
| Cuddington | 84 | 1 | 87 | 435 |
| Datchet | 102 | 5 | 120 | 357 |

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Inhabitants. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denham | 150 | 6 | 164 | 796 |
| Dinton | 112 | 0 | 128 | 668 |
| Dorney | 37 | 5 | 41 | 190 |
| Dourton | 21 | 2 | 23 | 105 |
| Drayton-Beauchamp | 36 | 4 | 49 | 191 |
| Drayton-Paſſelew | 49 | 0 | 69 | 307 |
| Dunton | 18 | 0 | 18 | 85 |
| Edgcot | 29 | 0 | 30 | 122 |
| Edleſborough | 64 | 3 | 75 | 318 |
| —— Dagnall (Hamlets of Edleſborough) | 66 | 0 | 71 | 348 |
| —— Horton (Hamlets of Edleſborough) | 9 | 0 | 13 | 44 |
| —— Northall (Hamlets of Edleſborough) | 66 | 3 | 77 | 331 |
| Elleſborough | 90 | 1 | 91 | 480 |
| Emberton | 111 | 5 | 131 | 549 |
| Eton | 290 | 8 | 335 | 2026 |
| Farnham-Royal | 112 | 8 | 112 | 550 |
| —— Hedgerly-Dean (Hamlets of Farnham) | 28 | 2 | 29 | 77 |
| —— Sear-Green (Hamlets of Farnham) | 31 | 1 | 49 | 224 |
| Fawley | 35 | 0 | 35 | 181 |
| Fingeſt | 57 | 3 | 82 | 316 |
| Foxcote | 17 | 0 | 17 | 85 |
| Fulmere | 54 | 1 | 55 | 292 |
| Gothurſt or Gayhurſt | 11 | 0 | 15 | 89 |
| Granborough | 44 | 2 | 52 | 230 |
| Grendon-Underwood | 47 | 1 | 60 | 285 |
| Grove | 3 | 1 | 3 | 25 |
| Haddenham | 180 | 2 | 209 | 964 |
| Halton | 31 | 0 | 38 | 159 |
| Hambleden | 201 | 4 | 212 | 1074 |
| Great-Hampden | 33 | 1 | 40 | 228 |
| Little-Hampden | 16 | 0 | 16 | 79 |
| Hanſlape | 243 | 3 | 291 | 1289 |
| Hardmead | 9 | 0 | 9 | 45 |
| Hardwick | 39 | 1 | 46 | 178 |
| —— Weedon in Hardwick | 59 | 2 | 86 | 385 |
| Hartwell | 20 | 2 | 22 | 115 |
| Great-Harwood | 91 | 4 | 91 | 450 |
| —— Singleborough, in Great-Harwood | 18 | 0 | 24 | 87 |
| Little-Harwood | 77 | 3 | 77 | 339 |
| Haverſham | 43 | 1 | 53 | 223 |
| Hawridge | 21 | 0 | 24 | 121 |
| Hedgerley | 23 | 3 | 23 | 137 |
| Hedſor | 30 | 0 | 35 | 140 |
| Hilleſdon | 26 | 1 | 34 | 183 |

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Inhabitants. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hitcham | 30 | 0 | 32 | 200 |
| Hitchenden | 129 | 4 | 182 | 887 |
| Hoggeſton | 37 | 0 | 37 | 197 |
| Hogſhaw *cum* Fulbrook | 7 | 0 | 7 | 55 |
| Horſendon | 9 | 0 | 9 | 52 |
| Horton | 125 | 5 | 185 | 647 |
| Hulcot | 23 | 1 | 27 | 127 |
| Ickford | 45 | 2 | 68 | 186 |
| Ilmer | 13 | 2 | 13 | 74 |
| Ipſtone, (Buckinghamſhire, part of) | 48 | 1 | 58 | 258 |
| Iver | 223 | 10 | 273 | 1377 |
| Ivinghoe | 78 | 0 | 92 | 452 |
| —— Aſton in Ivinghoe | 39 | 2 | 50 | 233 |
| —— St. Margaret's in Ivinghoe | 60 | 0 | 72 | 424 |
| —— Seabrook in Ivinghoe | 10 | 0 | 13 | 62 |
| Great-Kimble | 42 | 0 | 56 | 316 |
| Little-Kimble | 32 | 0 | 32 | 142 |
| Kingſey | 21 | 0 | 36 | 165 |
| Langley-Marys | 226 | 15 | 326 | 1215 |
| Lathbury | 25 | 0 | 31 | 189 |
| Lavenden | 212 | 1 | 212 | 544 |
| Lee | 30 | 2 | 34 | 150 |
| Lekhamſted | 60 | 0 | 76 | 346 |
| Lillingſton-Dayrell | 22 | 1 | 22 | 111 |
| Linchlade | 35 | 1 | 37 | 203 |
| Great Linford | 51 | 0 | 55 | 313 |
| Little Linford | 8 | 2 | 8 | 44 |
| Loughton | 58 | 1 | 63 | 302 |
| Ludgerſhall | 59 | 0 | 90 | 359 |
| —— Kingſwood, in Ludgerſhall | 9 | 0 | 21 | 37 |
| Luffield, extraparochial | 3 | 0 | 3 | 16 |
| Great-Marlow | 617 | 26 | 652 | 3236 |
| Little-Marlow | 124 | 4 | 135 | 728 |
| Marſh-Gibwen | 105 | 0 | 123 | 534 |
| North-Marſton | 77 | 0 | 96 | 478 |
| Marſworth | 40 | 1 | 47 | 259 |
| Medmenham | 58 | 3 | 69 | 284 |
| Mentmore | 23 | 0 | 26 | 148 |
| —— Ledbourn, in Mentmore | 19 | 2 | 27 | 131 |
| Milton-Keynes | 57 | 0 | 57 | 280 |
| Great-Miſſenden | 259 | 4 | 303 | 1411 |
| Little-Miſſenden | 132 | 5 | 140 | 625 |
| Maid's-Morton | 61 | 0 | 73 | 239 |
| Mulſo | 62 | 1 | 64 | 282 |
| Muresley | 65 | 3 | 77 | 318 |
| Newton-Bloſſomville | 41 | 2 | 49 | 221 |

Newton-

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Inhabitants. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Newton-Longueville | 90 | 0 | 95 | 459 |
| Newport-Pagnell | 527 | 14 | 502 | 2048 |
| Oakley | 34 | 0 | 65 | 257 |
| Olney | 444 | 11 | 460 | 2003 |
| ——Warrington, in Olney | 14 | 0 | 14 | 72 |
| Oving | 57 | 0 | 65 | 305 |
| Padbury | 84 | 2 | 104 | 459 |
| Penn | 133 | 10 | 188 | 927 |
| Pitchcote | 4 | 0 | 10 | 51 |
| Pitſton, or Pightleſthorne | 60 | 2 | 63 | 275 |
| ——Nettleden and Frieſden, in Pitſton | 16 | 1 | 15 | 85 |
| Preſton-Biſſet | 73 | 1 | 77 | 322 |
| Quainton | 147 | 2 | 164 | 750 |
| ——Shipton-Lee, in Quainton | 15 | 0 | 15 | 120 |
| Quarendon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 |
| Radnage | 58 | 3 | 79 | 306 |
| Radcliffe | 47 | 1 | 47 | 252 |
| Ravenſton | 73 | 0 | 81 | 381 |
| Monk's-Riſborough | 167 | 1 | 167 | 768 |
| Prince's-Riſborough | 317 | 3 | 317 | 1554 |
| Sanderton | 25 | 0 | 25 | 193 |
| Shabbington | 33 | 1 | 40 | 184 |
| Shalleſton | 32 | 0 | 35 | 158 |
| Shenley | 31 | 1 | 48 | 166 |
| ——Shenley-Brook-End, in ditto | 32 | 1 | 46 | 232 |
| Sherrington | 127 | 2 | 151 | 671 |
| Simpſon | 73 | 2 | 74 | 367 |
| Slapton | 40 | 2 | 47 | 228 |
| Soulbury | 101 | 2 | 107 | 526 |
| Stanton-Barry | 6 | 0 | 7 | 39 |
| Stewkley | 118 | 1 | 148 | 680 |
| Stoke-Goldington | 132 | 1 | 147 | 636 |
| Stoke-Hamond | 44 | 0 | 55 | 268 |
| Stoke-Mandeville | 74 | 6 | 78 | 248 |
| Stoke-Poges | 138 | 4 | 138 | 288 |
| Stone | 103 | 4 | 113 | 515 |
| Stow | 58 | 0 | 63 | 311 |
| Stony-Stratford, Eaſt Side | 104 | 2 | 104 | 528 |
| ——————, Weſt Side | 190 | 3 | 216 | 1125 |
| Fenny-Stratford, in Bletchley and Simpſon | 81 | 1 | 96 | 469 |
| Water-Stratford | 23 | 0 | 23 | 143 |
| Studley (Buckinghamſhire, part of) | 15 | 0 | 19 | 90 |
| Swanbourn | 80 | 0 | 115 | 529 |
| Taplow | 80 | 3 | 80 | 422 |
| Thornborough | 84 | 3 | 115 | 458 |

| | Inhabited Houſes. | Uninhabited Houſes. | Families. | Inhabitants. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thornton | 14 | 1 | 14 | 85 |
| Tingewick | 133 | 2 | 139 | 642 |
| Tottenhoe | 4 | 0 | 4 | 31 |
| Towerſey, a Hamlet of Thame | 51 | 0 | 69 | 294 |
| Turville | 72 | 2 | 72 | 376 |
| Turweſton | 39 | 1 | 39 | 211 |
| Twyford | 51 | 2 | 52 | 296 |
| ——— Charndon, in Twyford | 29 | 0 | 36 | 146 |
| ——— Poundon, in ditto | 16 | 1 | 16 | 75 |
| Tyringham, *cum* Filgrave | 24 | 0 | 32 | 236 |
| Upton, *cum* Chalvey | 165 | 15 | 205 | 1018 |
| Waddeſdon | 132 | 1 | 205 | 1040 |
| ——— Weſtcote, in Waddeſdon | 35 | 1 | 49 | 231 |
| ——— Woodham, in ditto | 4 | 1 | 5 | 21 |
| Walton | 12 | 2 | 12 | 79 |
| Wavendon | 133 | 0 | 138 | 635 |
| Wendover | 264 | 11 | 336 | 1397 |
| Weſtbury | 55 | 5 | 54 | 308 |
| Weſton-Turville | 72 | 2 | 109 | 497 |
| Weſton-Underwood | 70 | 0 | 97 | 357 |
| Wexham | 33 | 0 | 28 | 172 |
| Whaddon | 105 | 5 | 123 | 545 |
| ——— Naſh, in Whaddon | 58 | 0 | 64 | 265 |
| Whitchurch | 97 | 2 | 150 | 646 |
| Upper Winchendon | 36 | 0 | 40 | 206 |
| Nether Winchendon | 35 | 0 | 50 | 244 |
| Wing | 201 | 2 | 227 | 993 |
| Wingrave | 119 | 4 | 228 | 602 |
| Winſlow | 219 | 1 | 225 | 1101 |
| Wooburn | 293 | 11 | 338 | 1401 |
| Wolverton | 46 | 0 | 67 | 238 |
| ——— Bradwell Abbey, in Wolverton | 2 | 0 | 3 | 12 |
| Great Woolſton | 21 | 0 | 27 | 113 |
| Little Woolſton | 20 | 0 | 25 | 103 |
| Wormenhall | 36 | 0 | 61 | 266 |
| Wotton-Underwood | 29 | 0 | 43 | 212 |
| Woughton | 53 | 1 | 58 | 311 |
| High-Wycombe Town | 448 | 19 | 565 | 2349 |
| ——— Remainder of the Pariſh | 370 | 8 | 397 | 1899 |
| Weſt-Wycombe | 257 | 3 | 269 | 1330 |
| Wyllien | 15 | 0 | 15 | 97 |
| Wyrardiſbury | 96 | 2 | 103 | 616 |

The pariſh of Fleet-Marſton, of which no returns were made under the act, contains only four houſes, and 22 inhabitants.

*Crown Lands and Royal Palaces.*

AT the time of the Norman Survey, there were only eight Buckinghamſhire manors in the crown; yet it appears there were at that time two royal palaces in this county. At Brill, (which is mentioned in the Survey as a crown manor, by the name of Brunhulle,) was a palace, which is ſaid to have belonged to the Mercian kings; tradition aſſigns the ſame origin to Cippenham in Burnham. It is certain that they were both the occaſional reſidence of our monarchs of the Norman line, ſo late as the reign of Henry III. Cheynies, anciently called Iſelhampſted and Iſenhampſted, was a royal palace, in the reign of King Edward I.[k] Riſborough, mentioned in the Norman Survey as one of the crown manors, is ſaid to have been the palace of the Black Prince: the veſtiges of a caſtle are clearly to be ſeen in a field adjoining the church. Aſheridge was for a while, after the diſſolution of monaſteries, a royal palace, and was occaſionally inhabited by Queen Elizabeth.

*Principal Land-owners in the County at various Periods.*

WHEN the ſurvey of Domeſday was taken, the following were the principal land-owners: Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, had 41 manors; the Biſhop of Baieux, 26; the Biſhop of Conſtance, 18; William Fitz-Anſculf, anceſtor of the Paganells and Somerys, 16; Earl Morton, 13; Milo Criſpin, 12; Maigno Brito, founder of the barony of Wolverton, 10; William Peverell, 8; Geffrey de Mandeville, 7; Robert D'Oyley and Roger de Iveri, each ſix manors; Hugh de Bolebec, and Judith, Counteſs of Northumberland, each five manors; Lewis Neweton, and Walter Fitz-Other, anceſtor of the Windſors, each four manors; Hugh, Earl of Cheſter, Robert de Todeni, Gozelin Brito, and Gilo, the brother of Anſculf, each three manors: no other perſon appears to have poſſeſſed more than two. The Survey deſcribes very few manors in Buckinghamſhire as belonging to the church: there was no religious houſe of any conſequence at that time in the county. The monaſteries of Weſtminſter, St. Albans, Barking, and St. Frideſwide, in Oxford, had among them ſeven manors. In proceſs of time, many of the lay-manors became annexed to various religious eſtabliſhments of later foundation. Among the very few eſtates which continued any length of time in the deſcendants of thoſe families, who poſſeſſed them at the time of the Norman Survey, may be mentioned Whitchurch, ſold by the Earl of Oxford, (Hugh de Bolebec's repreſentative,) in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and Farnham, alienated in 1542, by the Earl of Shrewſbury, who was deſcended from Bertram de Verdon[l]. Many of

[k] Rot. Famil. Ann. 18 Edw. I. in Turr. Lond.

[l] He is not mentioned among the *principal* land-owners, having had only the manor of Farnham, in this county, at the time of the ſurvey.

the

the manors, deſcribed in the Survey, were either given to monaſteries, or alienated in other ways, long before the families of the owners were extinct: many others, particularly thoſe of the Biſhops of Baieux and Conſtance, reverted to the crown, were diſpoſed of by various grants, and divided amongſt numerous families, whom, for want of records at that early period, it would be impoſſible to trace.

It may be collected from ancient deeds, ſtill in exiſtence, that the Grenvilles held large landed property in Buckinghamſhire, about the commencement of the 12th century, under the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, with which family they became connected by marriage. The only manors which have deſcended from this early period to their preſent lineal repreſentative, the Marquis of Buckingham, are Wotton, the ancient ſeat of the family, Aſhendon, and Ham. Grenville's manor, in Haddenham, was ſold by this family, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth: Policote, a manor which was in the family at an early period, has been re-purchaſed; from time to time, other eſtates have been acquired by various purchaſes, to a great extent, and it is preſumed that the Marquis of Buckingham may now be conſidered as the greateſt land-holder in the county.

Among the earlieſt proprietors of land to be found on record, ſubſequent to the Norman ſurvey, are the Hampdens, of whom the preſent Lord Hampden is the repreſentative in the female line; the Bloſſomvilles and Girunds, whoſe families ſoon became extinct; the Paſſelews, who poſſeſſed their eſtates about 150 years; the family of Poges, whoſe landed property paſſed by female heirs to the families of Molins, Hungerford, and Haſtings; the Tyringhams, whoſe eſtates are now enjoyed by their repreſentative, Mr. Praed[m]; and the Chetwodes, the Lovetts, and the Dayrells, ſtill continuing in the male line, and ſtill in poſſeſſion of the eſtates of their anceſtors. The Penns may perhaps be referred to the ſame period; their eſtates are now poſſeſſed by Lord Curzon, as repreſentative in the female line of the elder branch. Mr. Penn, of Stoke, who has conſiderable eſtates in this county, acquired by purchaſe, is of a younger branch of the ſame family.

Between the commencement of the 14th century and the reformation, the principal families who became poſſeſſed of conſiderable property in this county, were the Whittinghams, whoſe eſtates paſſed by a female heir to the Verneys, and are now for the moſt part the property of Lady Fermanagh; the Bartons, and Fowlers, moſt of whoſe eſtates paſſed afterwards to the Ingletons and Tyrrells, of whom Mr. Sheppard of Thornton is now the repreſentative; the Eyres of Burnham, lately

[m] A younger branch of the Tyringhams continued the male line at Winchenden till 1735. Jane Tyringham, the heireſs of this branch, married Mr. Beresford, but, having no iſſue, bequeathed her eſtates to her maternal couſin, Sir Francis Bernard bart. father of Scrope Bernard eſq. the preſent proprietor.

extinct, repreſented in the female line by Mr. Sayer; the family of Reynes, long ago extinct; the Beauchamps, and Cobhams; the Cheynes, whoſe family continued to poſſeſs moſt of their eſtates in this county, till the death of Lord Newhaven, in 1728; the Bulſtrodes and Brudenells; the Lees of Quarendon, whoſe large eſtates have been lately ſold by their repreſentative Lord Dillon; and the Pureſoys, who became extinct in the male line in 1762, and are now repreſented by the Rev. G. H. Pureſoy Jervoiſe. The Lees of Moreton and Hartwell became poſſeſſed of thoſe, and other eſtates, which are ſtill in the family, about the cloſe of the 15th century: about the ſame time, the Pigotts, ſtill of Doderſhall, became poſſeſſed of eſtates in Buckinghamſhire, as did alſo the Pakingtons, who have lately ſold their property in this county, where they have long ceaſed to have a reſidence.

Very ſoon after the reformation, the noble family of Dormer became poſſeſſed of extenſive landed property in this county, moſt of which has paſſed by marriage to the Stanhopes: Peterley continues ſtill in the male line, being now the property of Lord Dormer. About the ſame time, the Wenmans became poſſeſſed of eſtates in Buckinghamſhire, which are now veſted in the executors of the late Lord Wenman, by whoſe death the title became extinct. The Forteſcues became poſſeſſed of eſtates in this county, about the year 1580; on the death of the laſt baronet of that family, they deſcended to female heirs. The Bowyers purchaſed their eſtate at Denham in 1596; Denham-Court ſtill continues in the family, but Denham-place, and other conſiderable eſtates in the neighbourhood, were ſold, in 1673, to Sir Roger Hill, and are now the property of his repreſentative in the female line, Benjamin Way eſq. The Drakes, Borlaſes, and Dentons, became poſſeſſed of eſtates in the county, about the year 1600; thoſe of the Drakes are ſtill in the family; the eſtates of the Borlaſes paſſed by marriage to the Warrens, and have been wholly, or for the moſt part, ſold by their repreſentative, Sir John Borlaſe Warren, K. B.; the eſtates of the Dentons are now the property of their heireſs, Mrs. Coke, mother of T. Wenman Coke eſq. of Holkham. About the ſame period, or ſoon afterwards, the Buſbys of Adſtock (lately extinct), the Palmers of Dorney, the Bennets, Seares and Wallers, firſt became poſſeſſed of eſtates in Buckinghamſhire: thoſe of the Palmers are ſtill in the family; thoſe of the Bennets have deſcended by a female heir to the Marquis of Saliſbury; the Seares and Wallers have ſtill property in the county. About the cloſe of the ſeventeenth century, the Freemans purchaſed Fawley; the Daſhwoods made purchaſes in the county; the Grubbs became poſſeſſed of the eſtates which they now enjoy, at and near Horſendon; and the Lowndes family became poſſeſſed of conſiderable landed property in various parts of Buckinghamſhire, which they ſtill retain. About the beginning of the laſt century, Sir John Aubrey inherited conſiderable eſtates in the foreſt of Bern-

wood, which have paſſed from one family to another by a ſucceſſion of female heirs (without alienation), ever ſince the Norman conqueſt. The Duke of Portland became poſſeſſed of Bulſtrode, and his other eſtates in this county, about the ſame time, by purchaſe.

The preſent diſpoſition of manerial property, excepting in the inſtances already mentioned, and a few others perhaps, which may unavoidably have eſcaped notice, is among families who have ſettled in, or become connected with, this county during the laſt century. Among the principal land-owners of this deſcription, are the Duke of Marlborough, who poſſeſſes by purchaſe, among others, the eſtates which paſſed by a female heir, from the ancient family of Goodwin, to the Duke of Wharton; and Lord Carrington, who has fixed his country ſeat at High-Wycombe, and has purchaſed ſeveral manors in different parts of the county.

*Nobility of the County, and Places which have given Title to any Branch of the Peerage.*

THE county of Buckingham gave the title of duke to John Sheffield, Marquis of Normanby, who was advanced to that high dignity in 1703; his ſon Edmund, the ſecond duke, dying in 1736, unmarried, the title became extinct, and has never ſince been revived. In 1746, John Lord Hobart was created Earl of Buckinghamſhire, which title is now enjoyed by his grandſon.

The town[a] firſt gave title of earl to Walter Giffard, who died in 1103: his ſon of the ſame name dying without iſſue male, the title became extinct; but Camden ſays, that the famous Richard Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, being deſcended from a female heir of the Giffards, aſſumed it in ſome deeds. Thomas of Woodſtock, ſixth ſon of King Edward III. was created Earl of Buckingham, in 1377; his ſon, Humphrey Plantagenet, ſucceeded to the title, but died without male iſſue. Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, being ſon of Edmund, Earl of Stafford, by Anne Plantagenet (daughter of Thomas of Woodſtock), was raiſed to the dignity of Duke of Buckingham, in 1443: this title became extinct, by the death and attainder of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, in 1521. In 1617, King James I. created his favourite George Villiers, (who before enjoyed the titles of Baron of Whaddon, and Viſcount Villiers,) Earl and Marquis of Buckingham; the following year his mother was created Counteſs of Buckingham for life; and in 1622, the marquis was advanced to the honourable title of Duke of Buckingham, which became extinct by the death of his ſon, and has never ſince been revived. Earl Temple was created Marquis of Buckingham, in 1784, and ſtill enjoys that honour.

[a] Some ſay the county.

Robert

Robert Bruce was created Earl of Aylesbury in 1663; the title became extinct in 1747, but was revived in 1776, in the family of Brudenell, connected by marriage with the Bruces. Sir Edward Henry Lee was, in 1674, created Viscount Quarendon, in this county, and Earl of Litchfield, which titles became extinct in 1776. Robert Lord Dormer was, in 1628, created Viscount Ascot (a hamlet of Wing), and Earl of Carnarvon, which titles became extinct in 1709. Sir John Thompson was, in 1696, created Baron of Haversham; the title became extinct in 1744. In 1706, Thomas Lord Wharton was created Viscount Winchendon (in Bucks), and Earl of Wharton: these titles became extinct by the death of his son, the Duke of Wharton, in 1731. The following peers and peeresses were, on their elevation to that rank, described as of places in this county: Viscountess Corbet of Linchlade, 1679, (the creation was for life only); Lord Windsor, of Bradenham, 1529, (extinct); Lord Russel, of Cheynies, 1539, (now Duke of Bedford); Lord Dormer, of Wing, 1615; Lord Villiers, of Stoke-Poges, 1619, (extinct); Lord Pierrepont, of Hanslape, 1714, (extinct); Lord Cadogan, of Oakley, 1718; and Viscount Leinster, of Taplow, 1727, (Duke of Leinster in Ireland).

The time and manner in which the noble families of Grenville, Bentinck, Stanhope, Hampden, and Curzon, became connected with this county, has been already mentioned. The Marquis of Thomond's uncle settled at Taplow, in consequence of a marriage with the heiress of the Orkney family, who, in the early part of the last century, purchased of the Hampsons. Lord Boston's father became connected with this county in 1764, by the purchase of Hedsor, now the seat of the present Lord: Lord Carrington's purchase has been already mentioned.

### *Noblemen's Seats.*

THE present seats of the nobility in Buckinghamshire are, Stowe, the magnificent mansion of the Marquis of Buckingham; Wotton, the ancient seat of his ancestors, now an occasional residence of his son, Earl Temple; Bulstrode, the Duke of Portland's; Taplow, the Marquis of Thomond's; Hedsor, Lord Boston's; Eythorp, an almost deserted mansion of the Earl of Chesterfield's; Hampden-house, and Penn-house, occasional residences of Lord Hampden, and Lord Curzon; Ditton Park, the late Earl of Beaulieu's; Dropmore, Lord Grenville's; Wycombe-abbey, Lord Carrington's; Hitchendon, the Countess of Conyngham's; and Middle-Claydon, Lady Fermanagh's. Peterley-house, an ancient mansion of Lord Dormer's, is occupied by a tenant; Aston-Abbots manor-house, belonging to the Earl of Chesterfield, does not appear to have been ever a seat of the family; Bidlesdon, formerly a seat of the Verneys, is now the property and residence of George Morgan

Morgan esq.; Latimers is now the seat of Lord George Cavendish, brother of the Duke of Devonshire. Baileys, the seat of the late Lord Godolphin, and lately in the tenure of the deceased Earl of Rosslyn, is at present unoccupied: the Countess of Orkney occupies Mr. Dupre's house, at Wooburn.

Among the principal mansions of the nobility, which have either been destroyed or become dilapidated, may be reckoned Asheridge, the seat of the late Duke of Bridgewater, by whom it was pulled down, and the materials sold in the year 1801; Cheynies, the seat of the noble family of Russel; Cliefden, a seat of the Earl of Inchiquin, formerly of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham; Twyford, of the Wenmans; Winchendon, of the Duke of Wharton's; and Wing, of the noble family of Dormer. Cliefden-house was burnt down in the year 1795; Twyford and Wing have been entirely pulled down; the small remains of Winchendon are fitted up for a steward; what remains of Cheynies is inhabited by a farmer.

*Baronets extinct and existing.*

The extinct baronets of Buckinghamshire are, Lee, of Quarendon, created in 1611, (afterwards earl of Litchfield); Dormer of Wing, 1615, (afterwards Earl of Carnarvon); Chester, of Chichley, 1619, (extinct in 1755); Bennet, of Bechampton, 1627, (extinct by the death of the grantee); Tyrrell, of Thornton, 1627, (extinct in 1755); Lawrence, of Iver; 1628; Pye, of Lekhamsted, 1641, (extinct by the death of the grantee); Drake, of Shardelows, 1641, (extinct by the death of the grantee, in 1669); Borlase, of Bockmer, in Medmenham, 1642, (extinct in 1688); Verney, of Middle-Claydon, 1660, (afterwards Earl Verney); Smith, of Radcliffe, 1661; Andrews, of Lathbury, 1661; Ingoldsby, of Lenthenborough, in Buckingham, 1661; Wittewronge, of Stanton-Barry, 1662; Tyrrell, of Hanslape and Castlethorp, 1665; More, of Maid's-Morton, 1665, (extinct by the death of the grantee); Thompson, of Haversham, 1673, (afterwards Lord Haversham); Seymour, of Langley, 1681; Jeffreys, of Bulstrode, 1681, (afterwards Lord Jeffreys); Denton, of Hillesden, 1699, (extinct by the death of the grantee).

The baronet branch of the Temple family, the Pakingtons, the Hampsons, and the Parsons family, who were all described as of that county, when advanced to the degree of baronet, have now no residence in Buckinghamshire.

Sir John Fortescue, of Salden, who died in 1656, was created a baronet of Nova Scotia: the title became extinct by the death of Sir Francis Fortescue, in 1729. The Longuevilles, baronets of Nova Scotia, now extinct, had for many years a seat at Wolverton. The Clerkes, now extinct, who had been many years resident at Hitcham,

Hitcham, quitted that place immediately after Sir John Clerke was created a baronet in 1660: they afterwards reſided for a conſiderable time at Shabbington, in this county. The ſeats of theſe extinct baronets are, with very few exceptions, either pulled down, or become farm houſes: Salden, the ſeat of the Forteſcues, which was a very magnificent manſion, has experienced the former fate; Hitcham, the ſeat of the Clerkes, is occupied as a ſchool; Shardelows ſtill belongs to a collateral branch of the Drakes; Bulſtrode is the ſeat of the Duke of Portland.

The following baronets have ſtill ſeats in the pariſhes of which they were deſcribed in their patents of creation: Sir George Bowyer, of Denham, 1660 and 1794; Sir George Lee, of Hartwell, 1660; Sir John Daſhwood King, of Halton and Weſt-Wycombe, 1706; and Sir Jonathan Lovett, of Liſcombe, in Soulbury, 1781. The period when their ſeveral anceſtors became connected with this county, has been already mentioned: it may be added, that Sir Jonathan Lovett is the lineal deſcendant of William Lovet, who had eſtates in Bedfordſhire and Berkſhire, at the time of the Norman Survey; it is not known exactly at what time they became connected with this county, but they may be traced by family deeds as reſident at their preſent ſeat in the reign of Edward II. Sir George Bowyer reſides principally at Radley, in Berkſhire; his father, the late Admiral Bowyer, who was created a baronet in 1794, ſucceeded to the more ancient title on the death of his elder brother.

Sir John Hort, when created a baronet in 1767, was deſcribed as of Mulſo, in Buckinghamſhire, but has no ſeat there: Sir Charles Harcourt Palmer has a ſeat at Dorney, which came into his family nearly two centuries ago by marriage: the title is of Kentiſh origin, and was inherited in 1725, on the death of Sir Thomas Palmer, of Wingham, in that county, by the Palmers of Dorney. Sir John Aubrey, of a Glamorganſhire family, inherits his ſeat at Dourton, in this county, in conſequence of the marriage of his anceſtor, with the heireſs of that eſtate, about the year 1700, as already mentioned. Sir Thomas Hanmer has a ſeat at Simpſon, in this county, where he occaſionally reſides: it came with the manor of that place to his anceſtor, in 1716, by marriage with the family of Walden. The anceſtor of Sir William Clayton, who has a ſeat at Harleyford, near Marlow, was of Surrey, when created a baronet in 1732.

Sir Robert Bateſon Harvey, an Iriſh baronet, has a ſeat at Langley, which he purchaſed in 1788.

*Principal*

*Principal Gentry and their Seats.*

THE hiſtory and antiquity of families is ſo much connected with the account of landed property, that after having ſpoken of the land-owners under a ſeparate head, little remains to be ſaid on this ſubject. Although Fuller has not made the ſame remark with reſpect to the gentry of this county, which he does in treating of thoſe of Bedfordſhire and Berkſhire, it ſeems to be equally applicable; for the family of Dayrell appears to be the only one now exiſting in the male line, which is to be found in the liſt of gentry of 1433, excepting the Grenvilles, who have been ſince ennobled, and the Chetwodes, who have been created baronets: the latter, although they retain their eſtates, have long ceaſed to be reſident in the county. There are two families of the Dayrells now exiſting; the Dayrells of Lillingſtone, who were ſettled there at leaſt as early as the year 1200, and the Dayrells who were of Langport, in Stow, (their preſent reſidence,) in 1416. The Colets, whoſe name is to be found in the above-mentioned liſt, have lately become extinct in the male line, and are repreſented by Mr. Stratfold Colet or Collet, as the name is now ſpelt, of Hale-Leys, in the pariſh of Wendover: Sir Henry Colet, Lord Mayor of London, father of Dean Colet, was of this family. The Doyleys, a very ancient Oxfordſhire family, were of Greenland-houſe, in the pariſh of Hambleden, in the early part of the 17th century: this manſion was demoliſhed in the civil wars, ſince which time, if not before, a younger branch of the family has reſided at Parmour, in the ſame pariſh, now the ſeat of John Doyley eſq. Mention of moſt of the principal Buckinghamſhire families, and the time when they ſettled in the county, will be found under the head already mentioned[a]. The following is a liſt of the principal ſeats of the preſent gentry, as far as they could be aſcertained: there may be ſome accidental omiſſions.

Addington, the ſeat of the Hon. Vere Poulett.
Ankerwyke-houſe, (belonging to J. S. Harcourt eſq.) in the occupation of John Crickett eſq.
Aſton-Abbots, (belonging to the Earl of Cheſterfield,) lately occupied by Col. Freemantle.
Barley-End Houſe, in Ivinghoe, the ſeat of Mrs. Lucy.
Bidleſdon, late the ſeat of the Verney family, now of Geo. Morgan eſq.

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|---|---|---|
| Bradenham, | the ſeat of | John Hicks eſq. |
| Great Brickhill, | | P. D. Pauncefort eſq. |
| Brightwell, | | Hon. Mr. Irby. |
| Eaſt-Burnham, | | Henry Sayer eſq. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Butlers (in Weſton-Turville), | the ſeat of | Mrs. Tompkins. |
| Caverſfield, | | Joſeph Bullock eſq. |
| Chalfont-Houſe, | | Thomas Hibbert eſq. |
| Cheſham, | | William Lowndes eſq. |
| Clifton-Reynes, | | Alexander Small eſq. |
| Court-Garden (Gr[t]. Marlow), | | Rich. Davenport eſq. |
| Daneſfield, (in Medmenham), | | Robert Scott eſq. |
| Denham-Place, | | Benjamin Way eſq. |
| Dinton, | | Rev. Wm. Goodall. |
| Doderſhall, | | William Pigott eſq. |

[a] See p. 466, &c.

Gayhurſt, or Gothurſt, formerly the ſeat of the Digby family, now of Miſs Wrighte, daughter of the late George Wrighte eſq.

Gregories, (in Beaconsfield), the ſeat of Mrs. Burke.

Hall-Barn, in Beaconsfield, (Mr. Waller's), occupied by —— Maxwell eſq.

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|---|---|---|
| Hanſlape-Park, | the ſeat of | Edward Watts eſq. |
| Little-Harwood, | | Rev. Mr. Langſton |
| Horſendon, | | John Grubb eſq. |
| Iver, | | Edward Bury eſq. |
| ——— | | Charles Clowes eſq. |
| Langport, (in Stow), | | Edmund Dayrell eſq. |
| Lathbury, | | Manſell Dawkins Manſell eſq. |
| Latimers, | | Lord Geo. Cavendiſh. |

Lillies, (in Weedon, a hamlet of Hardwick), in the occupation of Edmund Nugent eſq.

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| Lillingſtone-Dayrell | the ſeat of | Paul Dayrell eſq. |
| Linford, | | Rev. H. U. Uthwat. |
| Mill-End, (in Hambleden), | | Rev. John Hinde. |
| Miſſenden Abbey, | | J. Oldham Oldham eſq. |
| Newlands, (in Chalfont St. Peter), | | Sir H. T. Gott knt. |
| Oak-End, (in Iver), | | Fr. Sackv. Lloyd eſq. |
| Oving, | | Gen. North. Hopkins |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Parmoor, (in Hambledon), | the ſeat of | John Doyley eſq. |
| Richings, (in Langley), | | John Sullivan eſq. M. P. |
| Shalleſton, | | Rev. J. H. Purefoy Jervoiſe. |
| Shardelows, (in Amerſham), | | T. D. Tyrwhit Drake eſq. |
| Shenley, | | Rev. Primatt Knapp. |
| Stockgrove, (in Soulbury), | | Edward Hanmer eſq. |
| Stoke-Park, | | John Penn eſq. |
| Turville-Park, | | Thomas Butlin eſq. |
| Tyringham, | | William Praed eſq. |
| The Vache, (in Chalfont St. Giles), | | George Palliſer eſq. |
| Wavendon | | Henry Hugh Hoare eſq. |
| Weedon-Lodge, (in Hardwick), | | John Tirrel-Morin eſq |
| Weſtthorp-Houſe, (in Little-Marlow) | | Tho. Wilkinſon eſq. |
| Weſton-Underwood | | Geo. Courtenay eſq. |
| Whaddon-Hall, | | William Lowndes eſq. |
| Wilton-Park, (in Beaconsfield), | | James Dupré eſq. |
| Nether-Winchendon | | Scrope Bernard eſq. |
| Winſlow, | | William Selby eſq. |

Among the principal deſerted or demoliſhed manſions of the gentry, in this county, may be reckoned Raans, in Amerſham, now a farm houſe, formerly a ſeat of the Brudenels, anceſtors of the Earl of Cardigan, who had eſtates in various parts of the county, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; Burſton-Houſe, in Aſton-Abbots, formerly the ſeat of a younger branch of the Lees, of Quarendon; and Aſtwood-bury, the ſeat of the Cranmers, (an extinct family,) both pulled down.

## *Geographical and geological Deſcription of the County.*

This county is bounded on the north by Northamptonſhire, on the weſt by Oxfordſhire, on the ſouth and ſouth-weſt by the river Thames, which divides it from Berkſhire, on the north-eaſt by Bedfordſhire and Hertfordſhire, and on the eaſt by Middleſex.

The Agricultural Survey of Buckinghamſhire deſcribes its greateſt length to be about 45 miles, its breadth 18 miles, and its circumference 138. Its contents are calculated

calculated at 518,400 ſtatute acres [b]. This Survey, printed in the year 1794, ſuppoſes the number of acres, in common fields, to have been then 91000, and the waſte about 6000: ſeveral pariſhes have been ſince incloſed: the general nature of the ſoil is deſcribed to be a rich loam, ſtrong clay, chalk, and loam upon gravel. The neighbourhood of the Chiltern-Hills is chalky, as their name is ſuppoſed to imply: theſe hills ſtretch acroſs the county, from Bedfordſhire to Oxfordſhire, forming a part of that great chain, which extends from Norfolk to Dorſetſhire: on the weſt ſide of the county, adjoining Oxfordſhire, is a range of hills, of the calcareous ſtone, which is to be found parallel to the chalk hills, and at a few miles diſtance, during the greater part of their courſe. In that part of the county which borders on Bedfordſhire, about Wavendon, Broughton, and the Brickhills, the ſoil is a deep ſand: in this neighbourhood is found a rich blue marl, uſed for manure. The fertility of the vale of Ayleſbury, which lies under the Chiltern-Hills, is almoſt proverbial: Fuller tells us, that one field in this vale, or, as he calls it, one entire paſture, in the manor of Quarendon, belonging to Sir Robert Lee, was let at 800l. *per annum*, yet the tenant complained not of his bargain: as the extent of the field is not mentioned, nothing can be learnt as to the value of the land in his time: the late report of the ſtate of agriculture in this county confirms what has been ſaid of the richneſs and fertility of the vale of Ayleſbury, which has produced (ſay the authors of that report) ſuch a ſyſtem of indolence among the farmers of that diſtrict, rarely to be met with among that induſtrious part of the community, that, contented with the fertility which Nature has beſtowed upon their lands, they neglect every artificial means, by which they might be rendered more productive. The common fields in this vale are very extenſive: the northern parts of the county, where the ſoil is chiefly clay, are more incloſed: the moſt conſiderable commons in Buckinghamſhire, are Wickham-Heath, containing about 1500 acres; Iver-Heath, containing about 1150 acres; Stoke-Heath, about 1000; Fulmer-Heath, about 600; and Great-Harwood Common, about 560. Wavendon-Heath was planted about the year 1778, with Scotch firs, by Francis Moore eſq. of Egginton, in the neighbouring county of Bedford. The authors of the Agricultural Report, before quoted, tell us, that this gentleman received the gold medal from the Society for the Encouragement of Arts and Manufactures, for planting theſe firs; that the whole number planted was 51376; and that, in 1794, after having been ſeveral times thinned, there remained 17125 thriving trees, from 20 to 28 feet in height. The appearance of the heath (now, by purchaſe, the property of the Duke of Bedford) has been much improved by theſe plantations, and it exhibits ſome very picturesque ſcenery.

[b] Dr. Becke calculates the number of acres at 461,729. See his Obſervations upon the Income Tax.

The noble manſion and park of Woburn-Abbey are ſeen, perhaps, to more advantage from ſome parts of this heath, than from any other ſpot.

It is ſaid by ancient hiſtorians, that this county was formerly ſo covered with woods as to be almoſt impaſſable, till Leofstan, abbot of St. Albans, had ſeveral of them cut down, becauſe they afforded harbour for thieves. The whole of the Chiltern diſtrict is ſaid to have been a foreſt: the weſtern part, bordering on Oxfordſhire, was occupied by the foreſt of Bernwood, which was diſforeſted in the reign of King James I. The chief woodlands are now in that part of the county which lies to the ſouth of the Chiltern-Hills, of which they occupy a conſiderable portion. Mr. Langley, in his account of the hundred of Deſborough, publiſhed in 1797, ſays, that there were then 7000 acres of woodland in that hundred: he obſerves, that the quantity was continually decreaſing, the land being cleared for cultivation; and he ſuppoſes that, in the preceding century, it had been double: the hundred of Burnham abounds alſo in woodland, particularly the pariſhes of Amerſham and Cheſham: a tract of land on the Chiltern-Hills, extending from the Beacon-Hill, in Elleſborough, acroſs the pariſh of Little-Kimble into that of Great-Kimble, and containing more than 100 acres, is covered with box-wood, which appears to be the natural growth of the ſoil. The neighbourhood of Cheſham abounds with the black cherry, chiefly planted in hedge-rows. The prevailing timber of the ſouthern part of the county is beech; one wood of which, in the pariſh of Wycombe, is ſaid to contain 700 acres: the principal woodland in the northern part of Buckinghamſhire, is Whaddon Chace, containing 2200 acres of coppices, interſperſed with oak, aſh, and other timber: the reporters of the agricultural ſtate of this county, in 1794, complain, that the young timber was much deſtroyed by the deer, and the commoners' cattle.

That part of the county which lies ſouth of the Chiltern, abounds with pleaſing ſcenery, diverſified with hill and vale, arable, meadow, and woodlands, particularly in the neighbourhood of Amerſham, and the Miſſendens. Between Marlow and Henley the ſcenery is rendered ſtill more beautiful by the addition of the river Thames, and the view of its oppoſite banks: the ſcenery of this county receives very little embelliſhment from church ſteeples: the fine ſpire of Hanſlape, the great ornament of the north part of the county, was deſtroyed by lightning in 1804. There are now only three ſtone ſpires in the county, Buckingham, Olney, and that of Wotton, lately built by the Marquis of Buckingham: ſome fine old towers, in the vale of Ayleſbury, have been of late much diſfigured, by having been covered with rough-caſt and white-waſh: among the moſt ſtriking proſpects in the county, may be reckoned that from the hills above Elleſborough, commanding a very extenſive view of the vale of Ayleſbury; and that from a field, near Brill, commanding

manding a great part of Oxfordſhire and Northamptonſhire; but the moſt extenſive proſpect, perhaps, in the county, is from the tower of Penn Church: beſides what it commands of Buckinghamſhire, it extends into the counties of Berks, Oxford, Bedford, Herts, Eſſex, Kent, Middleſex, Surrey; and, it is ſuppoſed, into ſome parts of Suſſex and Northamptonſhire. Lord Boſton's houſe, at Hedſor, commands a very beautiful view over Windſor foreſt, and that part of Buckinghamſhire which borders on the Thames.

*Produce.*

THIS county has long been famous for its produce of corn and cattle; "Buckinghamſhire bread and beef," was an old proverb. Camden ſpeaks of the numerous flocks of ſheep in the vale of Ayleſbury, loaded with wool, and yielding great profit to their owners; and Fuller tells us that the biggeſt bodied ſheep in England were bred in this vale, where it was common in his time (1660) to give 10l. or more for a ram. The authors of the Agricultural Report of this county, give a very different account of the preſent ſtate of ſheep-farming in this diſtrict, which they obſerve is not likely to be improved, as grazing and dairy-farming ſeem to be the more favourite purſuits. They obſerve farther, that the lands are very ſubject to the rot, which prevents improvement, by the introducing of new breeds. Great numbers of oxen are fed in the vale of Ayleſbury, for the Smithfield markets; calves in great numbers are brought from the northern parts of the county, in which they are bred, to Ayleſbury market, where they are purchaſed by the farmers of the Chiltern, particularly ſuch as live in the neighbourhood of Cheſham and Amerſham, by whom they are fattened for the markets of the metropolis. The dairies in the vale furniſh large quantities of butter, by contract, to the London dealers. In the neighbourhood of Ayleſbury they are famous for rearing ducks very early in the Spring, which are ſent to London, and ſold at a high price.

NATURAL HISTORY.

*Foſſils.*—This county produces no minerals of any value. At Wavendon, on the borders of Bedfordſhire, are the celebrated fullers-earth pits, one of which is now only occaſionally worked, in a cloſe ſhaft. Mr. Pennant, on his journey from Cheſter, had an opportunity of ſeeing a large pit, which had been excavated to a conſiderable extent, and was open at the top. He thus deſcribes the *ſtrata*: "the beds over the marl are firſt ſeveral layers of reddiſh ſand, to the thickneſs of ſix yards; then ſucceeds a *ſtratum* of ſand-ſtone, of the ſame colour, beneath

beneath which, for ſeven or eight yards more, the ſand is again continued to the fullers earth, the upper part of which, being impure, or mixed with ſand, is flung aſide; the reſt taken up for uſe. The earth lies in layers, under which is a bed of rough white free-ſtone, and under that, ſand, beyond which the labourers have never penetrated." The pits in the neighbouring pariſh of Aſpley-Guiſe, in Bedfordſhire, have not been worked for many years. The ſale for this earth from the Wavendon pits, has of late much diminiſhed, the dealers having got into a practice of procuring earth of an inferior quality, from other parts of the kingdom, which they ſell as the produce of this neighbourhood.

The Survey of Domeſday mentions ſome ſalt-works at Riſborough; there are no mineral waters of any note in the county. There was formerly one of ſome repute at Cuddington, but it is not now known.

Very few extraneous foſſils are to be ſeen in this county, except in the ſtratum of calcareous ſtone before mentioned, and which runs through the part of this county adjoining Oxfordſhire. Woodward mentions *Bivalves*, found at and near Quainton [a] and Dinton [b], and near Ayleſbury [c]; and *Echini*, near Amerſham [d], on Raiſbury (Wyrardiſbury [e]) Common, and near Marlow [f]; *Ammonites*, near Elleſborough [g]; and *Belemnites*, near Lillingſtone-Dayrell [h]. The ſame author alſo mentions *Ætites-Geodes*, from Elleſborough [i]; and *Rhomboidal Selenitæ*, in clay, near Long-Crendon [k]. A ſtriated ſpecies of *Nautilus* is found in great abundance, and frequently of a very large ſize, in the yellow lime-ſtone near Dinton, with other extraneous foſſils.

*Rare Plants.*—The only very rare plant known to the botaniſts, as indigenous to this county, is the *Dentaria bulbifera*, which being peculiar to the ſouth-eaſt corner of Buckinghamſhire, and the adjacent parts of Middleſex, grows abundantly in ſome of the beech-woods of that diſtrict. Very few of the plants which are enumerated as rare, in the liſt annexed to Camden's Britannia, deſerve that epithet: among the more rare of them are the *Dianthus caryophyllus*, the *Ophrys muſcifera*, the *Paris quadrifolia*, the *Hieracium murorum*, the *Melampyrum criſtatum*, and the *Jaſione montana*. The *Aſtragalus glycyphyllus* has been obſerved growing abundantly in the neighbourhood of Wolverton and Haverſham.

[a] Vol. I. p. 42. f. 125. ib. p. 53. f. 432. 54. f. 442. [b] Vol. II. p. 43. a. 69. a. 73. a. 62. and a. 87. [c] Ib. a. 63. a. 70. a. 95. p. 45. a. 96. p. 47. c. 25. [d] Ibid. p. 48. d. 4. [e] Ibid. d. 4. [f] Ibid. d. 16. [g] Page 93. b. 1. [h] Page 74. i. e. [i] Page 102. d. 2. [k] P. 104. h. 1.

*Rivers.*

THE river Thames is the boundary and chief ornament of the ſouthern part of Buckinghamſhire, which it divides from Berkſhire, during a courſe of about 28 miles; from about a mile north of Henley bridge, to the conflux of the fartheſt ſtream of the Colne; paſſing Medmenham, Great-Marlow, Hedſor, Taplow, Boveney, Eton, and Datchet.

The Colne, for a courſe of about 14 miles, is the eaſtern boundary of this county, ſeparating it from Middleſex: it paſſes near Denham and Iver; through Colnbrook, to which it gives name; and near Horton and Wyrardiſbury; falling into the Thames between Ankerwyke and Staines. The Colne produces trout, and various other fiſh.

The Thame, as its courſe is deſcribed in the beſt maps, appears to be formed of a junction of ſmall ſtreams, two of the moſt conſiderable of which join near Quarendon; one of theſe ſtreams riſes near Stewkley, in this county, and runs near Cublington and Hardwick; the other riſes in Hertfordſhire, and for a ſhort diſtance is a boundary between the two counties, near Marſworth: it then croſſes a nook of Hertfordſhire, and enters Buckinghamſhire, paſſing near Hulcot, and under Rowſham bridge. Some other brooks join theſe united rivulets before they reach Eythorp, where they become altogether a conſiderable ſtream, and acquire the name of a river. From Eythorp, the Thame paſſes by Nether-Winchendon, Cherſley, and Nutley Abbey, to the town of Thame, in its courſe from which place it is for a few miles the boundary between Oxfordſhire and Buckinghamſhire, paſſing by Shabbington and Ickford; a little beyond the laſt-mentioned village, it enters Oxfordſhire; its courſe through this county having been about thirty miles, whether you follow one of the ſtreams to its riſe near Stewkley, or the other to the borders of Hertfordſhire.

The mouth of the river Thame having been choaked up, and the channel narrowed for want of cleanſing, two commiſſions of ſewers were iſſued in the early part of the laſt century, but nothing effectual was done in conſequence of diſputes between the commiſſioners and land-owners. The nuiſance having at length ſo far increaſed, that the neighbouring part of Buckinghamſhire frequently exhibited the appearance of a lake for months together, a new commiſſion was ſued out in 1797, under which the object ſo long deſired has been effected by removing obſtructions, and reſtoring the ancient channel. The hay harveſt is now ſecured from riſk, and the adjacent country rendered more ſalubrious. The river Thame abounds with eels, which are claimed by the king; its other fiſh are principally pike, perch, chub, roach, and gudgeons.

The

The courſe of the Ouſe through Buckinghamſhire, or as a boundary to it, is very circuitous, being little leſs than 50 miles. It firſt becomes a boundary to this county in the pariſh of Turweſton, near Brackley, ſeparating it from Northamptonſhire, and, having paſſed Weſtbury, for a few miles divides Buckinghamſhire and Oxfordſhire: it then enters this county at Water-Stratford, paſſing near Radcliffe, to Buckingham; from thence to Thornton, a little beyond which it becomes again for a few miles a boundary between Buckinghamſhire and Northamptonſhire, paſſing near Beachampton to Stony-Stratford, a little beyond which it enters the county a ſecond time, and paſſes near Wolverton, Haverſham, Stanton-Barry, Linford-Parva, and Lathbury, to Newport-Pagnell; from thence, between Gayhurſt and Tyringham, to Olney, leaving Stoke-Goldington, Ravenſton, and Weſton-Underwood, on the left: from Olney it runs by Clifton-Reynes, and Newton-Bloſſomville; and, paſſing between Brayfield and Turvey, forms, for a ſhort diſtance, a boundary between Bedfordſhire and Buckinghamſhire, after which it quits this county near Snelſon, in the pariſh of Lavendon.

We are told that the following fiſh, of a remarkable ſize, were recorded on the kitchen walls of the old manor-houſe, at Tyringham, (now pulled down,) as having been caught in the river Ouſe, in this county: a carp, in 1648, meaſuring 2 feet 9 inches in length; a pike, in 1658, 3 feet 7 inches in length; a bream 2 feet 3½ inches; a ſalmon, 3 feet 10 inches; a perch, 2 feet; and a ſhad, in 1683, 1 foot 11 inches[1]. Salmon, carp, and ſhad, are not in general reckoned amongſt the fiſh of the Ouſe.

The Ouſel is a boundary between Bedfordſhire and Buckinghamſhire, from Eaton-Bray to Linchlade, near Leighton-Buſard; where, entering this county, it runs near Stoke-Hamond, and Water-Eaton, to Fenny-Stratford; thence by Simpſon, Walton, the two Woolſtons, and Willien, to Newport-Pagnell, where it falls into the Ouſe. Its courſe, as connected with this county, (being almoſt from its ſource,) is nearly thirty miles. This river is remarkable for fine perch, pike, and bream.

The river Wick, or Wyke, riſes at Weſt-Wycombe, where it ornaments the grounds of Sir John Daſhwood King; from thence, paſſing by High-Wycombe, and through Lord Carrington's grounds, it runs by the village of Wooburn, and falls into the Thames, near Hedſor: this little river produces trout and other fiſh.

*Navigable Canals.*

THE Grand Junction Canal enters Buckinghamſhire near Wolverton, where it is carried acroſs the valley over the river Ouſe, which is here the boundary of the county,

[1] Pennant's Journey from London to Cheſter.

by

by an aqueduct of about three quarters of a mile in length: it paſſes near Linford-Magna, leaving Newport Pagnell on the north; by the Woolſtons, Woughton, and Simpſon, to Fenny-Stratford; thence leaving Stoke-Hamond, Soulbury and Linch-lade, on the weſt, it follows the courſe of the river Ouſe to Grove, leaving Leighton-Buſard, in Bedfordſhire, on the eaſt, and afterwards leaves Cheddington on the weſt, and Slapton, Ivinghoe, and Marſworth on the eaſt: near the laſt-mentioned place it quits the county.

In the year 1794, an act of parliament paſſed for making cuts from the towns of Ayleſbury, Buckingham, and Wendover, to communicate with the Grand Junction Canal.

*Roads.*

The great road from London to Cheſter and Holyhead enters Buckinghamſhire between the 41ſt and 42d mile-ſtones, (in the courſe of the ancient Watling-Street,) and paſſing through Little-Brickhill, Fenny-Stratford, Shenley, and Stony-Stratford, quits the county at Old-Stratford, near the 53d mile-ſtone. The great road to Liverpool enters this county near the 43d mile-ſtone, about a mile beyond the town of Woburn, and paſſes through Wavendon, Broughton, Newport-Pagnell, and Lathbury, between Gayhurſt and Tyringham, and through Stoke-Goldington, about two miles beyond which it enters Northamptonſhire, between the 57th and 58th mile-ſtones. The road from London to Oxford, Bath, &c. enters this county at Colnbrook, and, paſſing through Slough, quits it at Maidenhead bridge. The other road to Oxford (commonly called the Wycombe road) enters Buckingham-ſhire juſt beyond Uxbridge, and paſſes through Beaconsfield, High-Wycombe, and Weſt-Wycombe, quitting the county near Stokenchurch, a little beyond the 37th mile-ſtone. The road from London to Banbury quits the Wycombe road at the 18th mile-ſtone, and paſſes through the two Chalfonts, Amerſham, the two Miſſen-dens, Wendover, Ayleſbury, Hardwick, Whitchurch, Winſlow, Adſtock, Pad-bury, Buckingham, and Tingewick; a little beyond the laſt-mentioned place, after paſſing the 60th mile-ſtone, it enters Northamptonſhire. The ancient courſe of the road from Ayleſbury to Buckingham left Hardwick, Whitchurch, and Winſlow on the right; paſſing through Eaſt-Claydon, and between Steeple-Claydon and Padbury, as appears by Ogilby's roads of England and Wales, publiſhed in 1736. The turnpike road from Buckingham to Brackley paſſes by Shalleſton and Weſtbury. The road from London to Ayleſbury, through Tring, enters Buckinghamſhire, between the 32d and 33d mile-ſtones, and, paſſing through Aſton-Clinton, joins the other road near Ayleſbury. The road from Reading to Ware, in Hertfordſhire, enters this county a little beyond Henley, and continues along the banks of the

Thames through Medmenham to Great-Marlow; thence to High-Wycombe; over Wycombe heath to Amerſham; and over Amerſham common to Cheynies; a little beyond which it enters Hertfordſhire. A turnpike road from Ayleſbury to Biceſter paſſes through Fleet-Marſton, and Waddeſdon, quitting the county juſt beyond Ludgerſhall common. From Newport-Pagnell a turnpike road paſſes through Sherrington and Emberton to Olney; and thence, through Cold-Brayfield, towards Bedford. Another road, paſſing through Weſton-Underwood, connects Olney with the Northampton road.

The road from Newport-Pagnell to Bedford, paſſing through Chicheley and Aſtwood, which was formerly the principal road from Oxford to Cambridge, and the route of the judges on the midland circuit, is ſtill ſo deſcribed in the Itineraries; but it has been many years neglected and diſuſed, and is now quite impaſſable for carriages.

In 1795, a new line of turnpike-road was projected from Weſt-Wycombe, through Princes-Riſborough, into the Ayleſbury road near Wendover. That end of it which paſſes through Weſt-Wycombe and Bradenham has been completed; and ſeveral new pieces of road have been made in the pariſhes of Riſborough and Kimble: the reſt remains incomplete. In 1801, an act of parliament was paſſed for making a new road from London to Windſor, through Datchet, to quit the Bath road near Longford, and paſs through Horton to Datchet.

## *Manufactures.*

FULLER ſays, that *bone* lace (an obſolete term for thread lace) was made in the neighbourhood of Olney; but that Buckinghamſhire was not to be conſidered as a manufacturing county, "more people living by the lands than the hands." It is to be preſumed, that the lace manufacture has been much extended ſince Fuller's time[a], as it is now pretty general in moſt parts of the county: it is ſtill carried on to a great extent in and about Olney, where veils, and other lace of the finer ſort, are made, and great fortunes are ſaid to be acquired by the factors. Lace-making is, in no part of the county, ſo general as at Hanſlape, and in its immediate vicinity; but it prevails for 15 or 20 miles round, in every direction. At Hanſlape not fewer than 800, out of a population of 1275, were employed in it, in the year 1801: children are there put to the lace ſchools, at or ſoon after five years of age; at eleven or twelve years of age, they are able to maintain themſelves without aſſiſtance:

[a] Although there is no doubt but that this manufacture has very much increaſed within the laſt century, yet ſtill the majority of the county are to be conſidered as labourers in huſbandry. It appears, by the returns made to parliament under the Population Act, in 1801, that there were, at that time, 25,083 perſons employed chiefly in agriculture; and 20,138 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft.

both boys and girls are taught to make it; and ſome men, when grown up, follow no other employment: others, when out of work, find it a good reſource, and can earn as much as the generality of day-labourers: the lace made at Hanſlape is from 6d. to two guineas a yard in value. It is calculated, that from 8000l. to 10000l. neat profit is annually brought into this pariſh by the lace manufacture.

The manufacture of paper has been carried on in the neighbourhood of Wycombe for more than a century, and there are now ſeveral mills on the Wyke, which are employed for that purpoſe.

## Antiquities.

*Roman Remains.*—Very few Roman remains have been diſcovered in Buckinghamſhire: a Moſaic pavement and Roman coins were found at High-Wycombe, in Lord Shelbourne's grounds, in the year 1722[b]; a Roman veſſel and coins were found in digging a cellar in the High-Street there; and Roman coins, and other remains, in Deſborough field, near the ſame place: coins have alſo been found near Princes-Riſborough; Elleſborough, and Fenny-Stratford, in a place called the Auld-fields, where alſo foundations of buildings have been dug up: an amphora was found ſeveral years ago in a ſand-pit, on Wavendon-Heath[c]; and a ſmall glaſs veſſel, and ſome ſpear heads, near Dinton, in 1769[d].

*Roman Roads and Stations, (communicated by the Biſhop of Cloyne.)*—"The Roman ſtations, in this county, are little better aſcertained than thoſe in Berkſhire, but the roads are traced with more eaſe and certainty.

"The Ikening-Street enters its eaſtern borders near Edleſborough, ſtill preſerving its courſe on the edge of the Downs, leaves Pitſton cloſe on its right, and Tring on its left; then paſſing Drayton on the right, and croſſing the high road from Ayleſbury to London near the 33d mile-ſtone, leaves Halton to the right, and proceeds to Wendover, through which it paſſes; after which, leaving Elleſborough Church and Kimble-Magna on the right, it runs through Aſcot, goes at the foot of Whiteleaf Croſs, and keeps both Monks-Riſborough and Princes-Riſborough on its right; making, in this part of its courſe, a very remarkable bend, in order to keep on the high ground[e]: it then paſſes through Calverton; and, recovering its

[b] See Langley's Hiſtory of the Hundred of Deſborough, p. 29. This pavement was ſaid to have been "diverſified with a great variety of works, and in the centre the figure of a wild beaſt, &c." Ibid. p. 30. [c] See fig. 4. in the plate at p. 24. [d] See Archæologia, vol. X. p. 169.

[e] There is a road running nearly parallel with this, under the Chiltern Hills, called by the country people, the "Lower Acknell Way."

former line near Saunderton, which it leaves on the right, enters Oxfordſhire near Chinner. In this county, as in that of Bedford, it paſſes many camps and earth-works, of various ſorts, on the hills; but, unlike the roads which are known to be Roman, never bends towards them, or ſeems to have any connection with them.

"The Watling-Street enters the county with the modern Iriſh road, at the 42d mile-ſtone, and proceeds, perfectly ſtraight, through Brickhill, Fenny-Stratford, and Stony-Stratford, at which laſt town it croſſes the Ouſe into Northamptonſhire: all traces of the Roman cauſeway are, of courſe, obliterated by the preſent turnpike road; but no doubt ſeems to be entertained of its line, whatever difference of opinion there may be in determining the ſite of the itinerary ſtations upon it.

"The Akeman-Street, which formed a connection between the ſouthern parts of Wales and the more eaſtern counties of England, runs, as we have before obſerved in ſpeaking of its courſe, through Bedfordſhire, in an intermediate direction between the two Britiſh trackways, the Ikeneld and the Rykneld; and, although it is our intention to ſpeak more fully of it, as we can then do with more certainty, when we treat of it in the counties of Glouceſter and Oxford, yet we muſt again remark, how impoſſible it is for even a careleſs obſerver not to notice its general bearing, on looking at thoſe parts of it which ſtill remain perfect, near its eaſtern and weſtern extremities. The names given to our ancient roads, in maps, are but little regarded by well-informed topographers; as the ſurveyors or engravers, in many counties, have affixed, without care or knowledge, the peculiar titles of the Britiſh or Roman ways to any road which happened to approach them; thus, in the common maps, the name of the Akeman-Street, has been given to a vicinal way, leading from Ayleſbury into Oxfordſhire, in a direction totally different to the bearing of the Akeman-Street, in any part of its courſe: the name of Watling-Street to the road leading from Dunſtable to Woburn: and the Roman road from Cricklade to Spene, though it ſtill continues viſible and highly raiſed, on the limits of Wilts and Berks, is repreſented in all the maps as running far to the right by Albourn. I could mention miſtakes equally glaring in our modern ſurveys, and ſometimes in the writings of our moſt reſpectable antiquaries, as Leland, &c. who, through inadvertence, frequently give to a vicinal road, leading to a principal ſtreetway, the name of that ſtreetway itſelf, although it may happen to be in a very different direction. With reſpect to the real courſe of the Akeman-Street, in this county, while ſome adopt the conjecture of Stukeley, that, in its way from Alceſter, it paſſed not far from Winſlow, and then by Fenny-Stratford: there are others, whoſe opinion I prefer, who ſuppoſe it went to the north of this route, by Hide-Lane, near Buckingham, Stony-Stratford, Stanton, Newport, and Bedford, to Sandy.

" The road which is falſely named the Akeman-Street, in our preſent maps, appears to have come from Biceſter, in a line with the modern turnpike, towards the Berry-fields, near Ayleſbury, and may have been part of a Roman road, leading from Alceſter to Verulam or London.

" Another road, proceeding from the camp at Alceſter, went, on the very north-weſterly borders of this county, in a direct line through Biceſter; and, leaving Stratton-Audley to the right, paſſed by Newton-Pricell and Finmore, in Oxfordſhire; croſſed the road from London to Banbury, near the 61ſt mile-ſtone; went through Water-Stratford, and ſeems to have ran near Stowe, in its way to Towceſter.

" It is alſo mentioned by ſome writers, that traces of a Roman road, under the uſual name of the Portway, are found about Stone and Hartwell, to the weſt of Ayleſbury: if we had any good reaſon for ſuppoſing, with Stukeley, that Thame was the Roman town of Tameſis, we ſhould not be ſurpriſed to find a road in ſuch a direction; but as Stukeley's idea is founded on nothing more than the reſemblance of the name, and as the bearing of the road itſelf is not deſcribed to us, it is impoſſible to ſpeak of it with any certainty.

" The Roman ſtations in this county, from the few viſible remains, appear almoſt as difficult to fix as the roads; but the diſtances, in the iters of Antonine and Richard, correſpond ſo exactly, that, by following them, we cannot err much from the ancient ſites: at the diſtance of 12 miles from *Verulam*, was the ſtation of *Durocobrivæ*, or *Forum Dianæ*, which we have before mentioned to be at Dunſtable; and 12 miles farther we find *Magiovintum*, which will fall certainly within the limits of Buckinghamſhire; and if we attend to the diſtance on the road, preciſely at Fenny-Stratford: then proceeding 17 miles farther, we arrive at Towceſter, in Northamptonſhire, which muſt have been *Lactodorum*. This interpretation makes the ſtations, on the road between the two certain points of *Verulamium* and *Vennonæ*, agree perfectly with the poſitions aſſigned them in the itinerary; and it receives very ſtrong confirmation from the remains of the Roman ſtation ſtill exiſting, near Fenny-Stratford. The ſite of this ſtation is called the *Auld* fields, about a quarter of a mile from the preſent village, and is on a ſmall elevation, on the ſouth ſide of the rivulet: it is the very poſition likely to have been choſen by the Romans; and coins, and foundations of buildings, have been dug up there in abundance; Browne Willis had many of the former in his poſſeſſion.

" In treating of the weſtern part of this county, Camden mentions a Roman town, which he ſuppoſes to have been deſtroyed by the Danes, in 914, at a place, called the Burgh-Hill, and by contraction the Brill; and adds, that Roman coins were found there in his time; which, though doubted by Kennet in his Parochial Antiquities, is confirmed by Gale's MS. with the obſervation, that ſuch coins are called *kimbrels*,

in

in the neighbourhood; and as this ſeems to infer, that theſe marks of a Roman town have been found commonly, and in abundance, it requires ſome examination: the preſent inhabitants, however, have no knowledge of any coins, or other marks of antiquity, having been diſcovered in the pariſh; and the mere exiſtence of an ancient camp is by no means ſufficient to eſtabliſh the hypotheſis of Camden."

*Church Architecture.*—The church firſt entitled to notice, in this county, on account of its antiquity and curioſity, is Stewkley, which is one of the moſt complete ſpecimens of Saxon architecture we have remaining; no part of it, internally or externally, having been altered, or materially defaced, nor have any additions been made to it, except the porch on the ſouth ſide, and the pinnacles of the tower. The form of this church is oblong, 94 feet in length withinſide, including the chancel. The nave is 21 feet 8 inches in width: the chancel has a vaulted ceiling, the groins of which are diagonal, and ornamented with the zig-zag moulding: the eaſt window is ſmall and round-headed, as are all the windows of this church: there appears to have been originally a very highly-pitched roof over the vaulted roof of the chancel, forming an upper ſtory, which appears to have exiſted in ſeveral churches, evidently built about the ſame time: a ſquare maſſive tower, the upper part of which has, on every ſide, a row of ſmall pillars, and interlaced circular arches, divides the chancel from the nave: under the tower are two arches, highly enriched with zig-zag mouldings and groteſque heads. The weſt front of this church affords a very rich example of the Saxon ornaments: the great door has a circular arch, enriched with ſeveral zig-zag mouldings, within which are figures of dragons: on the ſides of the door-way are ſmall pillars; the ſhafts of two of them are ornamented with ſpiral mouldings, and the capitals with foliage and figures of animals: on either ſide of the door is a ſmaller arch in the wall, with ſimilar decorations: other parts of this curious building will be better underſtood by the annexed plates.

In Water-Stratford church there is a door-way, having a circular arch, enriched with Saxon ornaments, including a figure of our Saviour, within an oval compartment, ſupported by two angels[e], carved in *baſſo relievo*. At Dinton church is another remarkable door-way of this kind, in which, beſides the uſual Saxon ornaments, there appears a Roman *Guilloche*; the pillars have ſpiral ſhafts: within the arch there is a rude carving, in bas relief, of two dragons devouring fruit from a tree, and of St. Michael thruſting a croſs into the mouth of the great

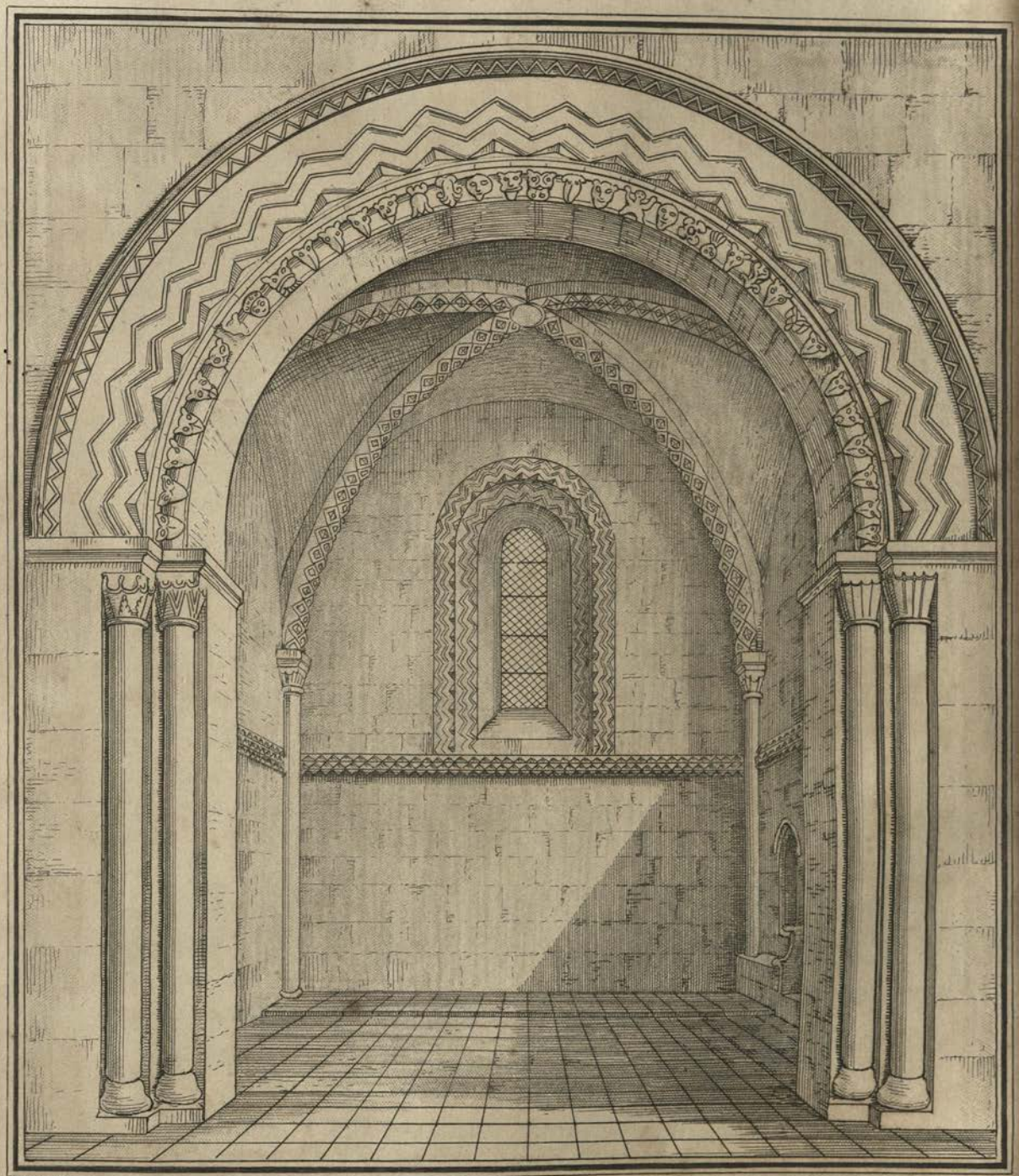
[e] There is a ſimilar bas relief on a door-way of Ely Cathedral, figured in Bentham's hiſtory of that building.

dragon:

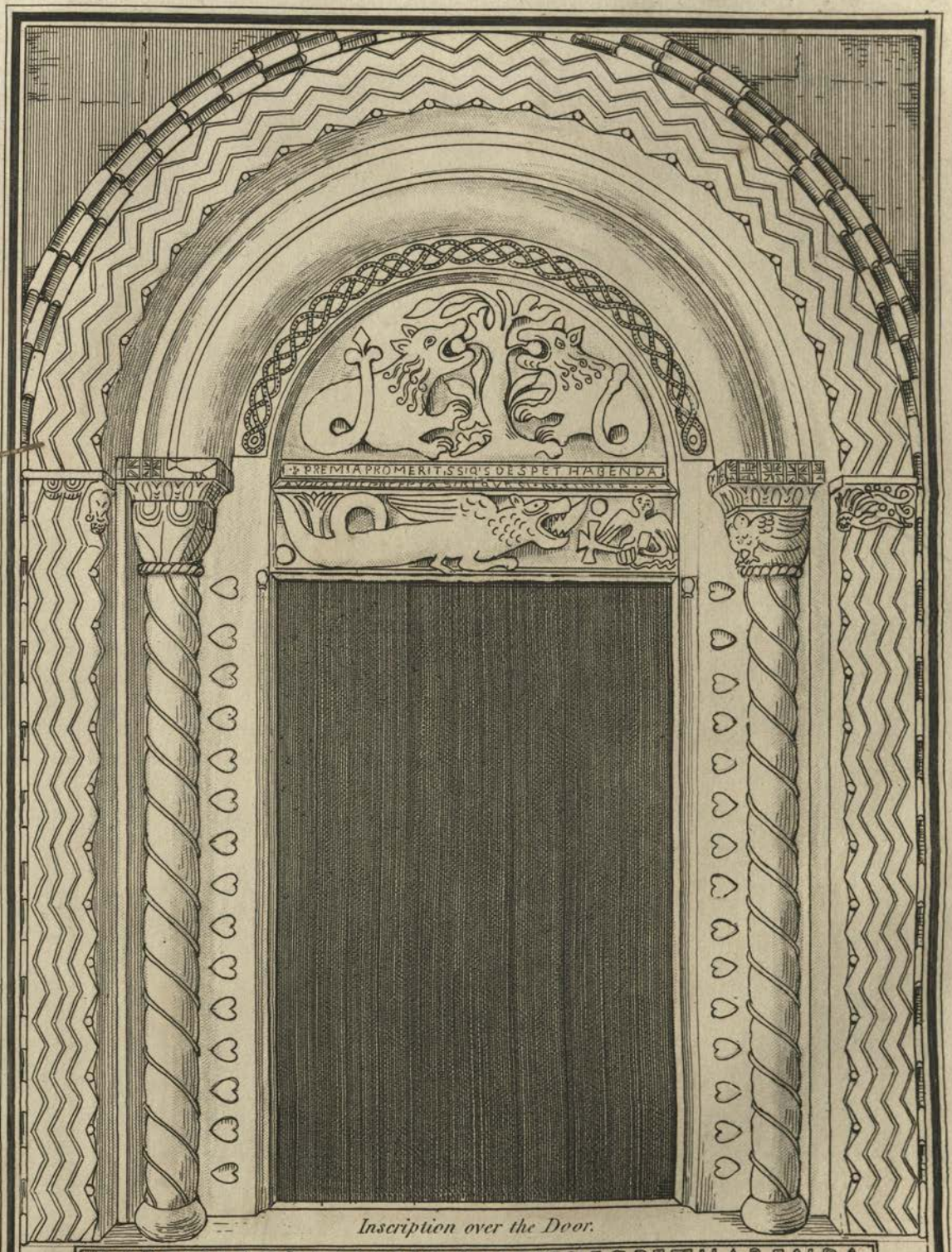
A *The Nave*
B *The Tower*
C *The Chancel*
D *The Font*
E E *Stone Seats*
F *A Modern Porch*
G G G *The Arches represented underneath*

PLAN OF STEWKLEY CHURCH.

Arches & Capitals of Pillars at the West end of Stewkley Church. Bucks.



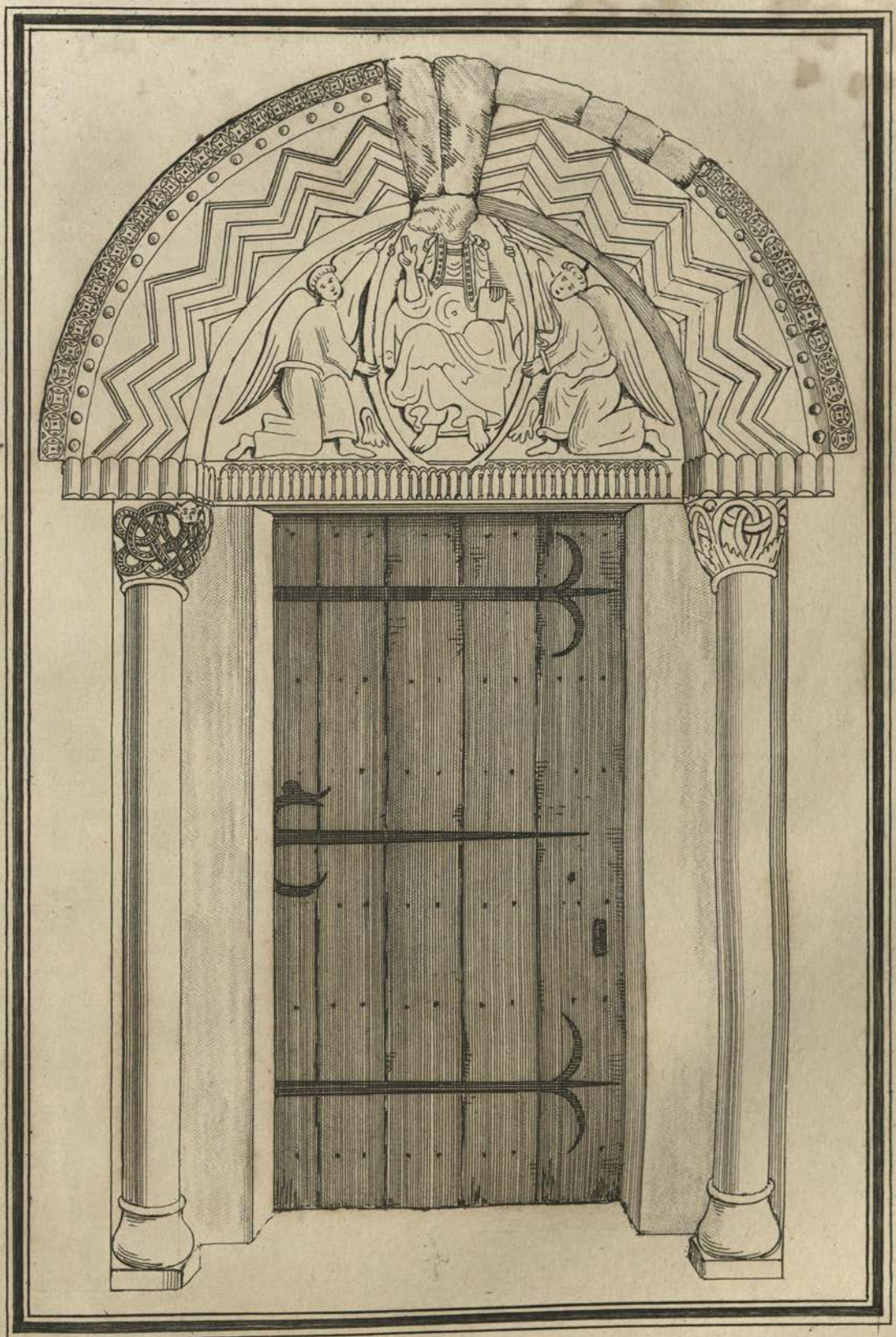
CHANCEL OF STEWKLEY CHURCH.




S. Lysons del. & sc.

DOOR-WAY OF DINTON CHURCH, BUCKS.

Published by T. Cadell & W. Davies, Strand 30th Nov. 1803.



DOOR OF WATER-STRATFORD CHURCH, BUCKS.

dragon: between theſe two there is the following inſcription, conſiſting of two rhyming hexameters, in Roman capitals:

PREMIAPROMERITISSIQISDESPETHABENDA.
AVDIATHICPRCEPTASIBIQVESITRETINSNDA.

Which may be read thus:—

*Præmia pro meritis ſi quis deſperet habenda,*
*Audiat hic precepta ſibi quæ ſint retinenda.*

In Stanton-Barry church, between the nave and chancel, there is an arch richly ornamented with Saxon mouldings and heads of animals: the ſhafts of the pillars are alſo enriched with a great variety of mouldings and ornaments.

Upton church retains its original form, and is on the ſame plan as that of Stewkley, but leſs ornamented, and much ſmaller: the roof of the chancel is of ſtone, and groined; and there is a plain ſquare tower between the nave and chancel.

The door-way of the ancient chapel of St. Thomas à Becket, now the free ſchool, at Buckingham, and thoſe of Caverfield, Horton, Lathburg, Waddeſdon, Wormenhall, Weſtbury, and Twyford churches, are circular, with Saxon mouldings, and other ornaments: there are alſo remains of this ſtyle of architecture in Fingeſt, Hanſlape, Lekhampſted, Stone, Tyringham, and Tingewick churches.

The door-way of the nave of Bletchley church has a pointed arch, enriched with Saxon ornaments: in Ratcliffe church is a door-way, with a pointed arch, ornamented with a fret moulding and flowers.

There are very few examples of Gothic architecture in the Buckinghamſhire churches, of ſufficient conſequence to entitle them to particular notice, except thoſe of Chetwode and Hilleſden: the former of theſe was the conventual church of the priory, which was founded at Chetwode, in the year 1244; and from the ſtyle of what remains, may fairly be conſidered as coeval with the foundation: the chancel is preſerved in its original ſtate, having lancet-ſhaped windows, with ſlender pillars, the capitals of ſeveral of which are highly enriched with figures of animals and foliage: there are ſome remains of this ſtyle of architecture in the church of Princes-Riſborough, where ſome of the windows of the ſouth aiſle are lancet-ſhaped, with ſlender detached pillars. Hilleſden church, which was rebuilt about the year 1493, affords a rich example of the later Gothic: it is in a very perfect ſtate, except the groined roof of the north porch, which has fallen down: the inſide is richly ornamented, eſpecially the chancel, the walls of which are covered with Gothic tracery.

*Ancient*

*Ancient ſtained Glaſs.*—Some of the moſt ancient and moſt elegant ſpecimens of ſtained glaſs to be found in this kingdom, remain in the chancel of Chetwode church: from the ſtyle of the ornaments with which they are enriched, from the dreſſes of the figures, and the form of the letters, in an inſcription under that of St. Nicholas[f], to whom the church was dedicated, and alſo from the ſtyle of the royal arms[g], there remains little room for doubt of this glaſs being coëval with the firſt erection of the church, on the foundation of the priory, to which it belonged about the year 1244; and that it was one of the earlieſt works of that kind produced in England; ſince the windows, till after the introduction of the earlieſt Gothic architecture, were too ſmall to have admitted of any diminution of light. The firſt and the fourth lights of this window, from the north-ſide of the chancel, are nearly entire[h]: in the former are three figures, in oval compartments; two of them repreſenting ſaints, and the third a king, probably intended for the reigning monarch, Hen. III.: in the latter are figures of two biſhops, and St. Edmund with his ſymbols, a bow and quiver of arrows[i]: the other parts of theſe lights are filled up with tracery of foliage, &c. on plain glaſs, in an infinitely more elegant ſtyle, if not ſo brilliant as that which came into uſe when the church windows were enlarged in ſucceeding ages, and entirely filled with coloured glaſs. In the church of Cheſham-Bois are ſome ſmall windows, in the ſtyle of the 14th century, filled with ſtained glaſs, conſiſting of tracery of foliage, and coats of arms[k]. In Hitcham church there are conſiderable remains of ſtained glaſs, chiefly in the windows of the chancel, in each of which is the figure of an angel, ſtanding on a wheel: the upper compartments of the eaſt window of the chancel, which is large and elegant, are nearly entire: from the ſtyle of the windows, with which the glaſs appears to be coëval, and the form of the letters in ſeveral inſcriptions[l], it ſeems probable that it was executed about the middle of the fourteenth century.

The eaſt window of the north aiſle of Hilleſden church is nearly filled with ſmall compartments of ſtained glaſs, containing repreſentations of different ſcenes, taken from the Legend of St. Nicholas, to whom the church was dedicated, with inſcriptions under each, pointing out the ſubject as "*Mortuus ad vitam redit precibus Nicholai, &c.*"

[f] This figure is in a ſouth window of the chancel: the inſcription, "*Amicus Dei Nicholaus,*" is repreſented in the annexed plate, fig. 2. [g] See the annexed plate, fig. 5.

[h] The whole of the firſt of theſe, (except ſome of the lower part, which has no figures,) is repreſented in fig. 4. of the annexed plate. [i] Ibid. fig. 3.

[k] One of the windows on the north ſide of the nave is repreſented in the annexed plate, fig. 1.

[l] Under one of the figures of angels above mentioned is inſcribed, "*Virtutes;*" under another, "*Dominaciones,*" in Lombardic capitals.

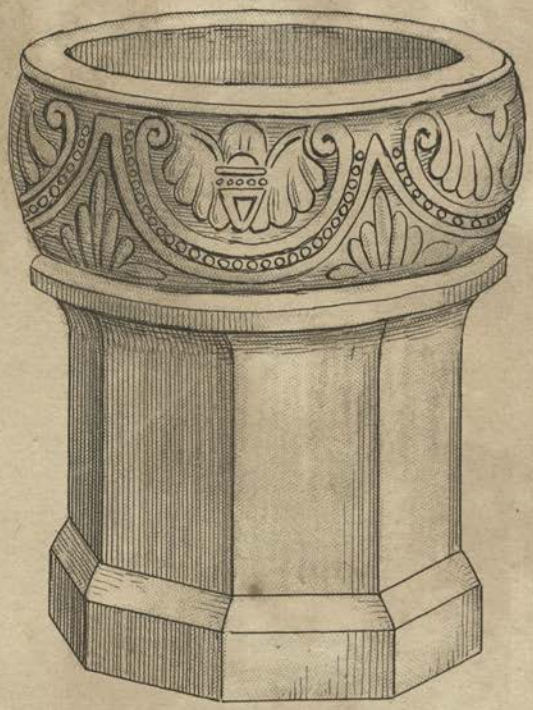
In

SANCTUS NICHOLAUS

1

*Font in Aylesbury Church.*

2



*In Maids-Morton Church.*

3

*Inscription at Nutley Abbey.*

4

*Part of the Corbel-table, in the Hall of Nutley Abbey.*

In Drayton-Beauchamp church there are eight figures of the apoſtles, in ſtained glaſs, of a large ſize.

*Roodlofts, Gothic Niches, &c.*—In North-Crawley church there is a rood-loft and ſkreen, enriched with figures of ſaints, under Gothic canopies; and in Great-Marlow church an embattled ſkreen of chalk, enriched with Gothic tracery: in the ſouth aiſle of Great-Harwood church is a niche, under which is a ſhield, with emblems of the crucifixion, &c. The porch of the north door of Great-Linford church has a groined roof, the centre of which is enriched with foliage: the ſouth porch of Milton-Keynes church has an open Gothic ſkreen on each ſide: in Chilton church is a reading-deſk of ſtone. There is a figure of St. Faith on the outſide of Newton-Longueville church.

*Fonts.*—There are more than ſeventy circular fonts in the Buckinghamſhire churches, and ſome of theſe are evidently the moſt ancient in the county: thoſe of Ayleſbury and Maids-Morton are richly ornamented with foliage; Hitchenden, Upton, Drayton-Beauchamp, and Caversfield, are ſurrounded with arches; Dinton is enriched with a border of quatrefoils; Hedgerley with heads of animals, &c.; Dorney and Hambleden with croſſes-florées; Hawridge with a border of roſes. The fonts of the following churches are octagonal, and variouſly ornamented: thoſe of Sherrington and Clifton-Reynes are enriched with figures in niches; Drayton-Paſſelew, with Gothic canopies, over which are ſhields, with coats of arms; Fingeſt is enriched with arches; Farnham and Langley with quatrefoils; Emberton and Lavendon with Gothic tracery; Lekhampſted with basreliefs of the Crucifixion, St. Catherine, &c. rudely executed; North-Marſton with roſes, and Princes-Riſborough with heads and roſes. The fonts in Taplow church, and Chalfont St. Giles, are ſquare, the former has circular arches on the ſides, and ſtands on a round ſhaft.

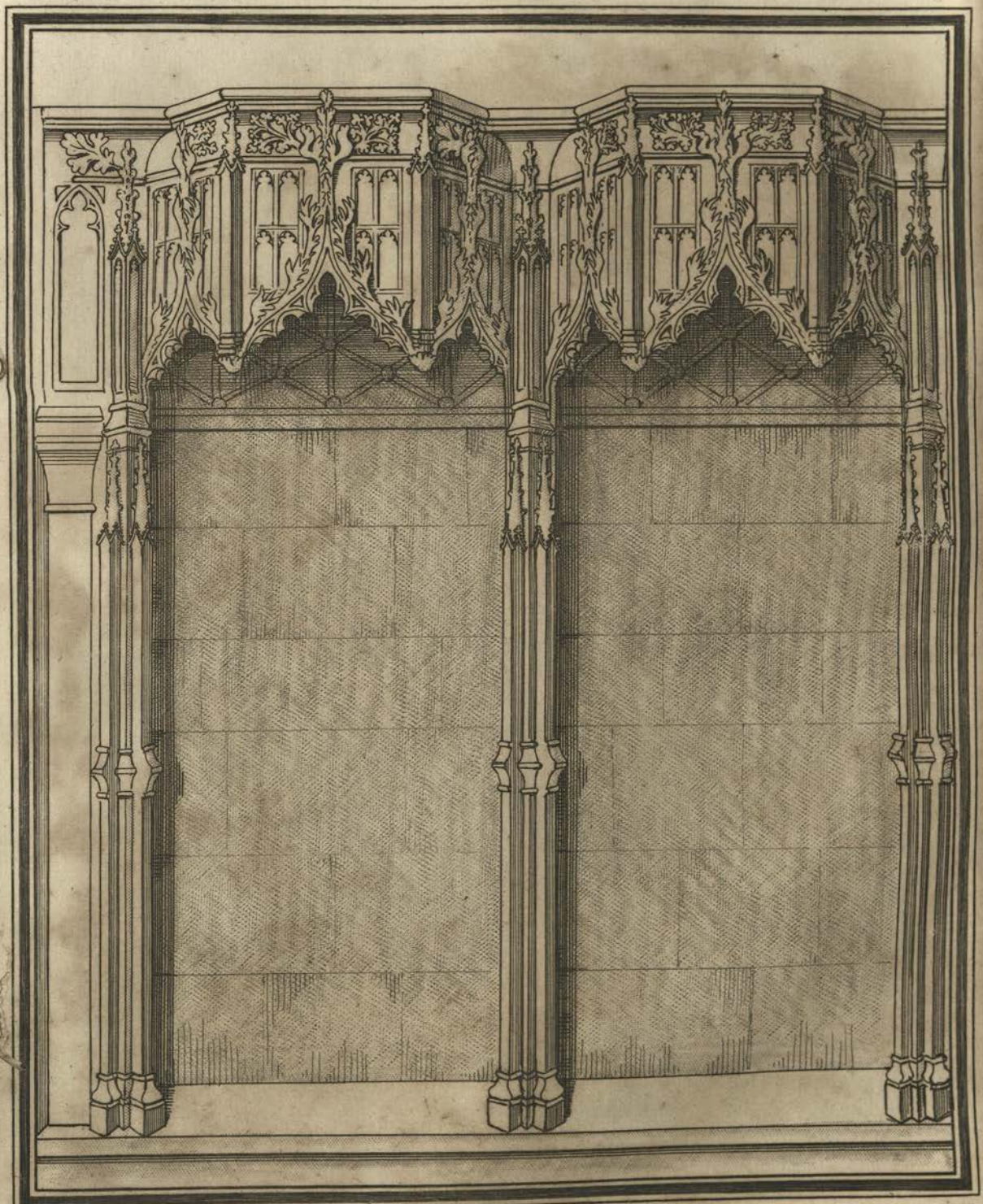
*Stone Stalls and Piſcinæ.*—There are ſtone ſtalls in the chancels of ſeveral of the Buckinghamſhire churches: there is one ſtone ſeat, with a *piſcina* adjoining in St. Leonard's chapel, and alſo in Lee and Wroughton churches; in the church of Milton-Keynes are two, with arches, and a double *piſcina*; in that of Preſton-Biſſet, a double ſtone ſeat; in Chetwode church are three, and a *piſcina*, with ſharply-pointed arches of the reign of Henry III. with pillars, the capitals of which are ornamented with foliage; theſe ſtalls are enriched with the flowers, in a deep groove, ſo frequently to be ſeen in works of the ſame age: in Aſton-Clinton church are three of equal height, with a *piſcina*, ornamented with pinnacles and crockets; in the north wall is a niche, with ſimilar ornaments: in Clifton-Reynes and Langley

churches are three ſtone ſtalls, with a *piſcina;* thoſe in the latter are of unequal height: at Emberton are alſo three of unequal height, having on them the arms of Tyringham: at Hambleden are three, ornamented with foliage: at Maid's-Morton three, of equal height, with a *piſcina*, having rich Gothic canopies, ornamented with crockets, tracery, &c.: at North-Marſton are three, and a *piſcina*, with rich Gothic ornaments, but much mutilated: in Sherrington church are three ſtone ſeats, of unequal height, the upper parts of which are divided into compartments, like a window, within a circular arch: at Whitchurch three, of unequal height, under one obtuſe arch, with a double *piſcina:* at Wavendon, on the north ſide of the chancel, are three ſeats, with round arches, and the ſame number on the ſouth ſide: at Edleſborough three, of unequal height. In each of the ſeveral churches of Great-Harwood, Twyford, and Walton, are three ſtone ſeats, and *piſcinæ* with the two laſt. In Newton-Longueville church are two *piſcinæ;* one of theſe is ornamented with ſhields, bearing the arms of William of Wickham, &c.: at Weſton-Turville is a double *piſcina*, and a ſingle one at Wexham. At Lillington-Dayrell is a *piſcina*, and a row of four irregular arches.

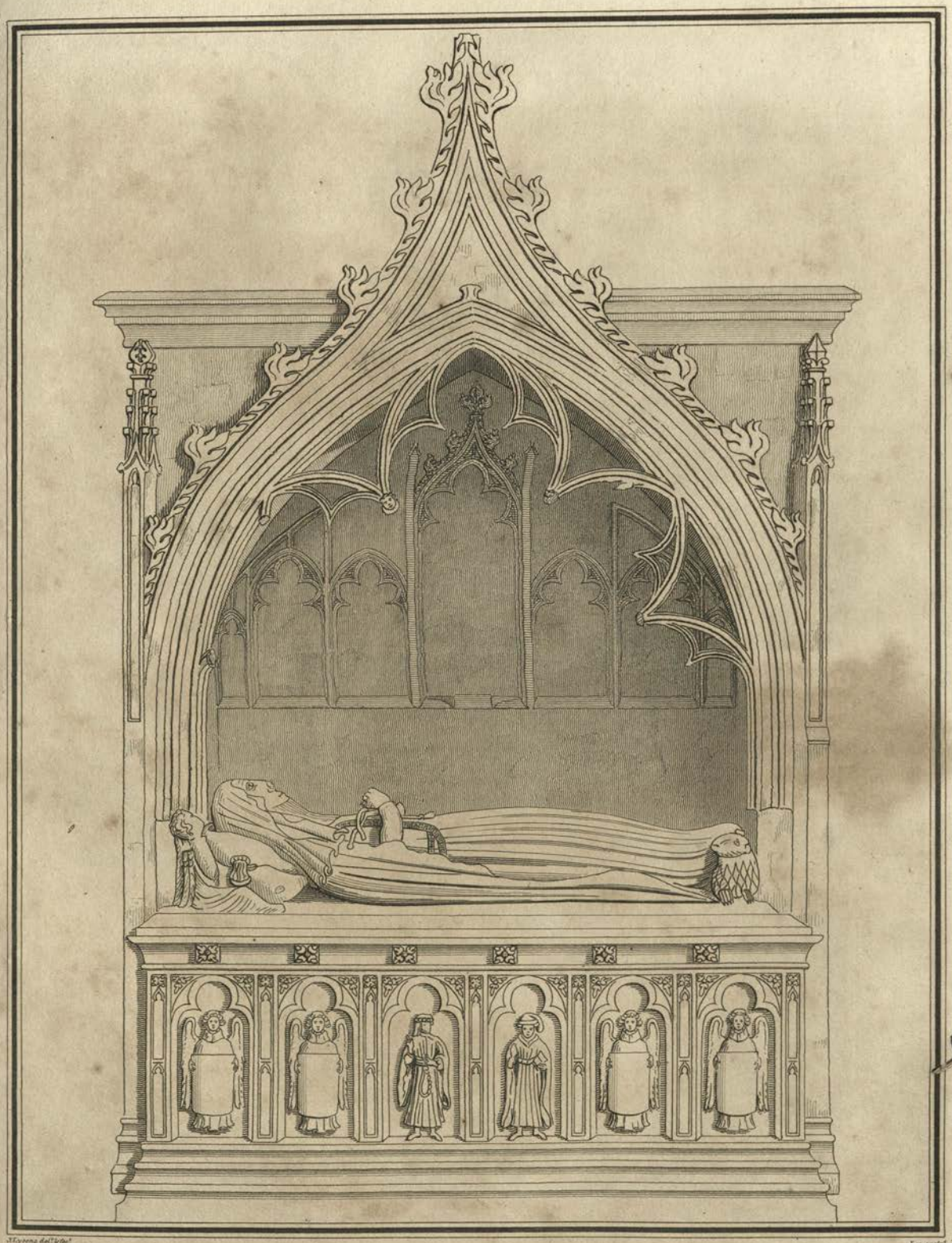
*Ancient Tombs.*—In Aſhendon church there is the effigies of a cruſader, under an obtuſe arch, rudely ornamented with foliage; it appears, from the arms, to have been intended for one of the family of Stafford: in the church of Clifton-Reynes are ſeveral ancient tombs; under a pointed arch, in the north wall of the north aiſle, are the effigies of a cruſader and his lady, carved in wood, ſaid to have been intended for ſome of the family of Reynes, who probably built that aiſle: there is an ancient tomb under another arch, on the north ſide of the chancel, having the effigies of a knight and his lady, carved in ſtone; he is in plated armour, with a gorget of mail: on this tomb are the arms and quarterings of Beauchamp: under a ſimilar arch, in the ſame wall, are the figures of a cruſader and his lady, carved in wood, with the arms of Zouche[k].

In the north wall of the chapel, adjoining the chancel of Hitchenden church, is the effigies of a cruſader, in mail and ſurcoat, under a pointed arch: in the ſame place, on the floor, are three figures of knights, rudely cut on ſlabs of ſtone, in bas-relief: there is another ſlab, on which is the carved effigies of a knight, in plated armour, with a pointed helmet and gorget of mail; on his breaſt is a heart: under an arch in the ſouth wall, on an altar-tomb, is the figure of an emaciated corps, in a ſhroud[l]. In Ayleſbury church is the mutilated effigies of a knight, carved in white marble, in plated armour, with a gorget of mail: it was dug up many years

[k] Bezanty, a Canton ermine. [l] For a more particular account of theſe tombs, ſee Langley's Hiſtory and Antiquities of the hundred of Deſborough, p. 301, where they are all figured.



TWO OF THE STONE STALLS IN MAIDS-MORTON CHURCH, BUCKS.



TOMB OF ELIZABETH LADY CLINTON, IN HAVERSHAM CHURCH.

ago in a field near the town, where the church of the Grey Friers formerly ſtood, and appears, from the arms, to have been intended for one of the Lee family[m]. On the north ſide of the chancel, in Haverſham church, is a rich Gothic monument of Elizabeth, Lady Clinton, who died in 1422, having her effigies in alabaſter, clothed in a long gown, mantle, and veil, with a lion at her feet, and angels ſupporting her pillow: the altar part of the tomb is enriched with roſes, tracery, and figures; over it is a canopy, ornamented with trefoils, crockets, and pinnacles. In Hoggeſton church is the tomb of the founder, much mutilated, having his effigies with the figure of a church in his hand. In Thornton church is the tomb of John Barton, founder of a chantry there, with the effigies of himſelf and his lady, in alabaſter; he died about the year 1443[n].

At Iſenhampſted-Cheynes, in the Ruſſel chapel, are two ancient figures in ſtone, ſuppoſed to have been for ſome of the Cheyne family. In the ſame place are the tombs of the firſt earl and counteſs of Bedford, and of Francis, the ſecond earl. In Bletchley church is the monument of Lord Grey, of Wilton, who died in 1442, having his effigies on an altar-tomb. In Drayton-Beauchamp church there is a braſs for one of the Cheyne family, dated 1375, perhaps Thomas Cheyne, who was ſhield-bearer to King Edward III. In Denham church is a braſs for Agnes Jordan, laſt abbeſs of Syon; and in Elleſborough church, a very large one of Sir John Swynſhide, rector, who died in 1390. In Thornton church are braſſes of Robert Ingleton, lord of the manor, who died in 1472, and his three wives, under rich Gothic canopies, and a large braſs of his grandaughter Jane, who brought Thornton to the Tyrrells; they have all been lately removed from altar-tombs, and placed on the ground. In Clifton-Reynes church is a braſs for Sir John Reynes, 1428, and at Stoke-Poges, one of Sir William Molins, who was killed at the ſiege of Orleans, 1425, and another of Eleanor Lady Molins.

*Monaſtic Remains.*—Very ſmall remains are exiſting of Burnham abbey; and of Medmenham, only the baſe of a pillar of the church. In Mr. Oldham's green-houſe at Great-Miſſenden, there are ſome groined arches, reſting on pillars, with enriched capitals in the lateſt Saxon ſtyle, which ſeem to have been part of the cloiſters of Great-Miſſenden abbey. There are conſiderable remains of Nutley abbey now converted into a farm, they occupy three ſides of a quadrangle, on the ſouth ſide of which is the hall, ſixty-eight feet in length, and twenty-three feet nine inches in width, now uſed as a barn: in the wall, at the eaſt end, is a corbel-table, in the ſtyle of the early Gothic, richly ornamented with foliage[o]; adjoining to the hall, at the eaſt end, is a paſſage, with an arched ceiling ten feet wide, the entrance

[m] It was ſuppoſed by Browne Willis to be the effigies of Sir Robert Lee, who died in 1460.

[n] This is the date of his will.

[o] See the plate, p. 409, fig. 4.

to which is on the ſouth ſide of the quadrangle, and has a pointed door-way, the pillars of which have enriched capitals. On the weſt-ſide are the buildings of the farm-houſe, in the ſtyle of the lateſt Gothic; ſome part was probably erected after the diſſolution. There is a chamber, 18 feet by 37, round the cornice of which, the Stafford knot is frequently repeated, with this inſcription in black letter[p], "*en lui plesãc (pleſance.)*

The college of the Bon-hommes, at Aſheridge, exhibited a fine ſpecimen of the Gothic architecture of the thirteenth century; the greater part of it was pulled down by the late Duke of Bridgwater, and the materials ſold about four years ago: the cloiſters were very beautiful; they were built of Totternhoe ſtone, in which the ſeveral ornaments with which they were enriched, appeared to great advantage[q]: The walls were painted in freſco, with ſcripture ſubjects. The annexed plate may ſerve to give ſome idea of the hall, as it appeared when the demolition of the building was going on: its dimenſions were 44 feet by 22.

Part of St. Margaret's nunnery is ſtanding, and occupied as a dwelling-houſe; it does not appear to be of a much earlier date than the diſſolution of monaſteries.

*Caſtles and Sites of Caſtles.*—There are no remains of the buildings of any ancient caſtles in this county. Some earth-works point out the ſite of thoſe which formerly exiſted at Lavendon and Whitchurch, and that at Caſtlethorpe, anciently called Hanſlape Caſtle, which was the ſeat of the Manduits. There are no earth-works remaining to mark the ſite of Newport-Pagnell Caſtle.

*Ancient Manſion-Houſes.*—Borſtall-houſe was a caſtellated manſion[r]. The gate-houſe of the ancient building ſtill remains. Liſcombe-houſe is a very ancient edifice, but the greater part of it has been modernized: the chapel retains its original windows, which are in the ſtyle of the early part of the thirteenth century. Thornton-Houſe has been modernized. Gayhurſt, which was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, has undergone little alteration, excepting the inſide, the greateſt part of which has been modernized.

*Camps and Earth-Works.*—On the top of the hill at Weſt-Wycombe are the remains of a circular camp; on the eaſt ſide there is a double *vallum*, with a deep ditch: in other parts the ditch is ſhallow. In Mr. Scott's grounds at Danesfield, on

[p] See the plate, p. 489, fig. 3. [q] The cloiſters by accident were not lotted when the materials were ſold, and therefore were not pulled down at the ſame time with the other parts of the building; but they are conſiderably damaged by the fall of the adjoining walls. [r] See an engraving of it in its original ſtate, in Kennet's Parochial Antiquities.

RUINS OF THE HALL OF ASHERIDGE HOUSE.

the banks of the Thames, is an entrenchment, nearly circular, with a double *vallum*, except on the river ſide, where it was defended by a ſteep cliff: it is known by the name of Danes-ditch. There is a circular camp near High-Wycombe, at a place called Old or All-Hollands, above the ſite of the Roman ſtation in Deſborough field. At Cholſbury is a circular entrenchment, 289 yards acroſs from eaſt to weſt, and 207 from north to ſouth, ſurrounded by a double ditch; and in the adjoining village of Hawridge, the manor-houſe is built within a circular ancient entrenchment. There are alſo ſome large entrenchments at Hedgerley-Dean, and a ditch which runs from thence to Eaſt-Burnham. Above the village of Medmenham are the remains of a large camp, nearly ſquare, incloſing about ſeven acres, with a ſingle *vallum* and ditch. In a wood near Burnham there is an oblong *vallum* and ditch, about 130 paces long, and about 60 wide, called by the country people Harlequin's-moat. Near Elleſborough are ſome ſtrong earthworks, on the ſide of the Chiltern hills, at one corner of which is a high circular mount or keep, 80 paces in circumference, called the Caſtle-hill, or Kimble-Caſtle, commonly ſuppoſed to have been the Caſtle of Cunobeline. There is a moated ſite adjoining the farm-houſe, called the Grove, near a road called the Lower Ikneld-Way, in the pariſh of Elleſborough; it is of an irregular form, and in moſt parts about fifty paces acroſs.

A conſiderable mound of earth, under the common name of Grimeſdike, runs nearly eaſt and weſt through part of this county; it has been traced for ſome miles, particularly between Wiggington Common in Hertfordſhire, and St. Leonard's Common. At Princes-Riſborough, adjoining the church-yard, is an entrenchment, being nearly a ſquare of 80 paces, ſuppoſed to be the ſite of the Black Prince's palace.

PARO-

## PAROCHIAL TOPOGRAPHY.

Mr. Browne Willis had made very large collections for a hiſtory of this county, but only publiſhed that of the town and hundred of Buckingham. His collections for the hundreds of Cotſlow and Newport were complete at the time of his death, and had been methodized for publication, by the Rev. Mr. Cole, of King's College, Cambridge: the collections for the ſouthern part of the county are the moſt deficient. The late Rev. Mr. Langley publiſhed, in 1797, the hiſtory and antiquities of the hundred of Deſborough. In the following brief parochial account, the hiſtory of manors, and whatever elſe is not quoted as from other authorities, is deduced chiefly from Browne Willis's printed hiſtory and MS. collections, and from Mr. Langley's hiſtory of the hundred of Deſborough, which is here generally acknowledged to avoid the frequent repetition of quotation. The more modern information has been collected by a perſonal viſit to every pariſh in the county, and by inquiries made of the clergy and others; among whom Scrope Bernard eſq. of Lower Winchendon, and Edward Hanmer eſq. of Stockgrove, merit particular acknowledgment for their kind aſſiſtance.

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Addington, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about two miles north-weſt of Winſlow. The manor was, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, part of the large poſſeſſions of Odo, Biſhop of Baieux: after his baniſhment, it ſeems to have been acquired by the family of Romenel, who before had held it under him, and to have been alienated by them to the Fitz-Bernards. In 1313, it was purchaſed of the latter by John Blacket [o], who not long afterwards conveyed it to Sir John Molins [p]: having paſſed by female heirs to the families of Hungerford and Haſtings, it was ſold, in 1532, to the Curzons, and by them, about 1620, to the Buſbys. This manor is now the property of the Hon. General Vere Poulett, under the wills of Lady Kemys and her maiden ſiſter, daughters and co-heirs of the Rev. Thos. Buſby, who died in 1725; theſe ladies deceaſed within a few months of each other, in 1800 and 1801. The manor-houſe was the ſeat of the Buſbys, of which family

[o] See Pat. 6 Edw. II. [p] See Pat. 9 Edw. III.

there

there are ſeveral memorials in the pariſh church: Sir John Buſby, who died in 1700, was colonel of the Buckinghamſhire militia. The advowſon of the rectory, which was formerly veſted in the prior and convent of St. John of Jeruſalem, has been annexed to the manor ever ſince the reformation: the tithes and glebe of this pariſh were exchanged for certain lands, ſettled on the rector, by act of parliament, in 1726.

ADSTOCK, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies nearly three miles to the north-weſt of Winſlow, on the north ſide of the road leading from Ayleſbury to Buckingham. The manor of Adſtock was given by the Conqueror to his illegitimate ſon, William Peverell; and on the attainder of William Peverell the younger, was granted by King Henry II. to William Avenell, from whoſe family it paſſed by marriage to the Vernons and Baſſets: it was afterwards, as Browne Willis ſuppoſes, divided into two manors, one of which paſſed by marriage to the Forteſcues. Sir Francis Forteſcue ſold the demeſnes of this eſtate in the early part of the 17th century, reſerving the manor which his ſon conveyed to Thomas Egerton, rector of Adſtock; from his family it paſſed by purchaſe to the Verneys. Lord Fermanagh was in poſſeſſion of this manor in 1735: it is probable that they have been purchaſed, ſince Browne Willis's publication, by ſome proprietor of the other manor, formerly called Hanſted manor, in Adſtock, which that writer traces from the Baſſets, either by purchaſe or alliance, through the families of Hanſted, Newenham, Cope, Smith, Tomlins, and Greaves. The family of Greaves were in poſſeſſion in 1677; ſoon after which, it paſſed by marriage to the Whitehalls. It is now the property of J. C. Turney eſq.

The advowſon of the rectory of Adſtock was given in the reign of Henry II. by William Avenell, to the abbey of Leiceſter; but about the year 1443, was again (probably in conſequence of ſome exchange) annexed to the manor. Sir John Forteſcue, about the year 1635, ſold it to Robert Sharrock, rector of Drayton-Paſſelew, whoſe grandſon bequeathed it to the Biſhop of Lincoln and his ſucceſſors for ever, recommending them to appoint a reſident rector. This pariſh has been incloſed, by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1797, when an allotment of land was given to the rector, in lieu of tithes; the pariſh is deſcribed in the act, as conſiſting of 47 yard lands.

AGMONDESHAM or AMERSHAM, a market town in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies on the road to Ayleſbury and Buckingham, 26 miles from London. This town is a parliamentary borough by preſcription; its right of ſending members to parliament, which had been diſuſed more than 400 years, was at length recognized in 1623, through the exertions of William Hakevill eſq. of Lincoln's Inn,

who

who was then choſen one of its repreſentatives. Edmund Waller, the poet, who was a native of Coleſhill in this pariſh, ſat in two of the parliaments of King Charles I. as member for the borough of Amerſham: the celebrated Algernon Sydney was one of its repreſentatives in 1679. The right of election is in the Lord's tenants of the borough, paying ſcot and lot. King John, in the year 1200, granted a market at Agmondſham, on Fridays, to Geffrey Fitz-Piers, Earl of Eſſex, and an annual fair on Lady-day[q]: the market is now held on Tueſdays; the preſent fairs are, Whit-Monday, and Sept. 19. The market-houſe was built by Sir Wm. Drake knt. who died in 1682. According to Browne Willis, there were 400 families in the town, about the middle of the laſt century: the number of inhabitants in the town and pariſh, in 1801, according to the returns then made to parliament, was 2130; of theſe, 959 were males, and 1171 females: the number of perſons chiefly employed in agriculture was 232; of thoſe employed in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, 1198.

The manor of Agmondeſham (called in the Norman Survey, Elmodeſham) was given by William the Conqueror to Geffrey de Mandeville, and, with other large eſtates, deſcended from him to the noble families of Fitz-Piers, Bohun, and Stafford. After the attainder of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, King Henry VIII. granted this manor to Sir John Ruſſel, anceſtor of the Duke of Bedford. In 1665, it was purchaſed of William, Earl of Bedford, by Sir William Drake knt. and is now the property of Thomas Drake Tyrwhit Drake eſq. The family of Drake had been ſettled in this pariſh ſome time before, by the marriage of Francis Drake eſq. of Eaſt Sheen, in Surrey, one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber to King James I. (deſcended from the Drakes, of Aſh, in Devonſhire,) with Jane, daughter and heir of William Totehill eſq. of Shardeloes, in the pariſh of Amerſham. William Drake eſq. was created a baronet in 1641, but dying a batchelor in 1669, the title became extinct: he bequeathed his eſtates in Amerſham to his nephew, William Drake eſq. afterwards Sir William Drake knt., in whoſe poſterity they ſtill continue.

Shardeloes, the ſeat of Mr. Drake, ſtands about a mile from the town. It formerly belonged to the Brudenells, collateral anceſtors of the Earl of Cardigan: this branch of the family terminated in a female heir, who brought Shardeloes to the Cheynes. It was afterwards the ſeat of William Totehill eſq. an eminent lawyer in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who had the honour of entertaining her Majeſty at Shardeloes in one of her progreſſes: Mr. Totehill's daughter married Mr. Drake, as above-mentioned. Among the pictures at Shardeloes is the portrait of a Lord

[q] Cart. 2 John.

Chancellor,

Chancellor, by Cornelius Janſen, ſuppoſed to be Sir Chriſtopher Hatton. The gardens, much commended for their beauty by the editors of the Magna Britannia publiſhed in 1720, were formed out of a moraſs by Sir William Drake knt.; they were modernized for the late Mr. Drake, by Richmond.

Mr. Drake has three other manors in this pariſh, called Woodrow, Wood-ſide, and Wedon-hill, all of which have been a conſiderable time in his family: the manor of Wedon-hill belonged anciently to the family of Wedon, and afterwards to Sir John Cobham, who ſurrendered it to the crown in the reign of Edward III.[r]: that monarch granted it, in 1365, to Peter de Brewes:

The manor of Raans, in this pariſh, takes its name from the ancient family of Raan, from whom it paſſed by female heirs to the De la Groves and Brudenells[s]. Druce Brudenell, of Raans, was buried in the north aiſle of Amerſham church (which belongs to Raans-houſe) in 1489. Raans was at a later period the property and ſeat of the Probys, ſeveral of whom were buried at Amerſham, but their monuments have been either removed or decayed. Sir Henry Proby, of Raans, whoſe monument was formerly to be ſeen in Amerſham church, died in 1662: the manor of Raans was afterwards in the Gower family, and was purchaſed of Earl Gower, in 1735, by the Duke of Bedford. It is now, by purchaſe from the late duke, the property of Lord George Cavendiſh. The manor-houſe, an ancient building, is occupied as a farm.

The pariſh church was newly pewed, paved, and rendered very commodious at the expence of the late Mr. Drake, who obtained a faculty for that purpoſe, in 1778; the galleries were added by the preſent lord of the manor, in 1800. There are ſeveral monuments of the Drake family in the chancel, and an adjoining-mauſoleum; among the moſt deſerving of notice may be mentioned, that of Montagu Gerrard Drake eſq. by Scheemaker, and a very handſome monument in memory of the lady of the late Mr. Drake, ſaid to be by Sir Henry Cheere. In the chancel are monuments of the family of Bent of Leiceſterſhire, who had a ſeat in this pariſh, and that of Henry, ſon of Sir Patrick Curwen bart. who died in 1638, at the age of 14.

The advowſon of the valuable rectory of Amerſham, to which a manor is annexed, with a Court-Leet and Court-Baron, was purchaſed of Sir Richard Minſhull, by Sir William Drake knt. and is now the property of his deſcendant, whoſe brother is the preſent rector. It belonged formerly to the prior and convent of Brecknock, in South Wales, to whom it was given in 1347, by Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford[t].

The rectory houſe, which is large and commodious, ſtands in a beautiful ſituation, about a quarter of a mile from the town. The manor of Coleſhill, in this

[r] Pat. 39 Edw. III. [s] See Collins's Peerage. [t] Pat. 21 Edw. III.

pariſh, which was formerly in the Brudenells, and afterwards in the Wallers, having been the birth-place of Waller the poet, is now annexed to the rectory of Amerſham: it was purchaſed of the Wallers, with a ſum of money bequeathed by Mrs. Bent, in 1730, to the rector of Amerſham, and his ſucceſſors, on condition of their preaching four quarterly ſermons, previouſly to the adminiſtration of the ſacrament of the Lord's Supper. The hamlet of *Coleſhill*, although belonging to this pariſh, forms an inſulated portion of Hertfordſhire. The manor of Cooks, deſcribed in ancient records as being in the pariſh of Amerſham, partly in Buckinghamſhire and partly in Hertfordſhire, extends probably into this hamlet. In Queen Elizabeth's time it was in the Windſor family [g]; nothing has been learnt of its ſubſequent proprietors.

Dr. Robert Chaloner, rector of this pariſh, who died in 1621, founded a grammar-ſchool, endowed it with a ſalary of 25l. *per annum*, and gave 20l. *per annum* for the maintenance of a divinity lecture at Chriſt-Church College in Oxford, or for exhibitions for three poor ſcholars from his ſchool at Amerſham. A writing-ſchool was founded in this pariſh by William Lord Newhaven, who died in 1728, and endowed by him with a rent-charge of 20l. *per annum*. A Sunday-ſchool in this town, originally eſtabliſhed by ſubſcription, has been endowed by the late William Drake jun. eſq. M. P. Sir William Drake bart. who died in 1669, founded and endowed an alms-houſe for ſix poor widows, not under 60 years of age, who receive a weekly ſtipend of four ſhillings each, beſides clothes and fuel.

John Gregory, author of ſome learned treatiſes, among which was one on the ancient cuſtom, in the church of Sarum, of electing a biſhop among the choriſters, on Innocent's day, was born at Amerſham in 1607.

The town of Amerſham appears to have been peculiarly expoſed to the fury of religious perſecution, both in the reign of Henry V. when many of its inhabitants were executed for profeſſing the tenets of the Lollards [h], and in the reign of Queen Mary [i].

Akeley, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about three miles nearly north of the county town. The manor was given by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, to the alien priory of Newton-Longueville: having been ſeized by the crown during the wars with France, it was given by King Henry VI. with other eſtates of that priory, to the warden and ſcholars of New College, in Oxford.

The manor of Stockholt, in this pariſh, belonged ſucceſſively to the families of Barton, Fowler, and Lambard. Sir Edward Bagot, who married the heireſs of the laſt-mentioned family, ſold it to Sir Simon Bennet; from the Bennets it paſſed

[g] Browne Willis. [h] Pat. 1 Hen. V. part 5. [i] Fox's Acts and Monuments.

by a female heir to the noble family of Cecil, and was purchaſed of the Marquis of Saliſbury, in 1800, by the preſent proprietor, Lord Carrington.

The advowſon of the rectory, which belonged formerly to the priory of Newton-Longueville, is veſted in the warden and ſcholars of New College. This pariſh, by the name of Akeley *cum* Stockholt, was incloſed, purſuant to an act of parliament paſſed in 1794, when a corn rent was ſettled on the rector in lieu of tithes, but the Marquis of Saliſbury's eſtate was exempted from the operation of the act. An allotment was given to the poor in lieu of furze.

ASHENDON, in the hundred of that name, and the deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about nine miles weſt of Ayleſbury, and about ſeven north of Thame in Oxfordſhire. The manor has belonged from time immemorial to the Grenville family, and is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham.

The manor of Great-Policote, in this pariſh, was anciently in the noble family of Valence, Earls of Pembroke, paſſed by a female heir to the Talbots, and was afterwards in the Staffords. At a later period it belonged to the family of Palmer, of whom it was purchaſed by the Grenvilles, and is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, who holds the manor, or reputed manor, of Little-Policote in this pariſh, as leſſee under Lincoln College in Oxford. This eſtate is ſaid to have been given to Lincoln College, before the year 1479[k], by John Bucktot, a prieſt: the manor-houſe was a retiring place for the college in the time of the plague.

In the pariſh church of Aſhendon is an ancient figure of a cruſader, under a flat arch rudely ornamented with foliage, which tradition calls the tomb of Sir John Bugden, of Policote. Browne Willis ſays, that the miniſter told him it was that of John Bucktot, who gave the manor of Little-Policote to Lincoln College; but it is evidently the tomb of a layman, and ſeems by the chevron on the ſhield to have been one of the Stafford family, who were anciently Lords of Great Policote.

The great tithes of this pariſh were given by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, to the abbey of Nutley. Since the reformation they have been veſted in Chriſt-Church College in Oxford; the Marquis of Buckingham is leſſee under the college. The benefice is a donative, in the patronage of the dean and chapter. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1737.

ASTON-ABBOTS, in the hundred of Cotſlow, lies about five miles nearly north of Ayleſbury. The manor, which had belonged to the abbey of St. Albans, was

[k] Biſhop Rotheram's ſtatutes, which bear that date, direct maſs to be ſaid for John Bucktot, as one of the benefactors to the college.

granted by King Henry VIII. to John Lord Ruſſel: not long afterwards it became the property of the Dormer family, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the Stanhopes, and is now the property of the Earl of Cheſterfield. The manor-houſe, which is pleaſantly ſituated, was occupied by the late Colonel Freemantle.

This pariſh is in the peculiar juriſdiction of the Archdeacon of St. Alban's, and in the dioceſe of London: Lord Cheſterfield is patron of the vicarage. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1795, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the vicar, in lieu of the vicarial, and a conſiderable portion of the great tithes to which he was entitled.

Burſton-houſe, in this pariſh, was the ſeat of a branch of the Lees: Cromwell Lee, a younger ſon of Sir Anthony Lee of Burſton, compiled a very bulky Italian Dictionary, now in the library of St. John's College in Oxford, of which he was a member; he died in 1601. The old manſion was nearly rebuilt by Sir Henry Lee, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but left by him in an unfiniſhed ſtate, and has never ſince been completed: it is occupied as a farm-houſe, and is now the property of Mr. William Leader, who purchaſed it, in 1802, of Lord Dillon, the repreſentative of the Lee family.

Aston-Clinton, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies four miles eaſt of Ayleſbury, on the road to London through Tring. The principal manor of this place was the property of Edward de Saliſbury, who was ſtandard-bearer to King Henry I. In 1217, King Henry III. gave it to Sir William de Farendon[l]: it was afterwards in the Baſſets. King Edward I. granted this manor to the Montacutes, anceſtors of the Earls of Saliſbury, from whom it deſcended to their repreſentative, the unfortunate Margaret Counteſs of Saliſbury, beheaded by King Henry VIII. in 1541. In Queen Mary's reign it was in the family of Haſtings, and has ſince paſſed by marriage to the Barringtons, Gerards, and Lakes: it is now the property of General Gerard Lake, who, for his great ſervices as commander in chief of his Majeſty's forces in the Eaſt Indies, was, in 1804, created Lord Lake, of Aſton-Clinton. There appears to have been another manor in Aſton-Clinton, which was ſucceſſively in the families of Audeley, Grey, Brocas, St. Cler, and Grange[m]; it ſeems to have been united to the other manor before 1541, when the Counteſs of Saliſbury died, ſeiſed of the manors of Aſton-Clinton and Aſton-*Cherry*. This manor is called, in the liſt of game-keepers' deputations for the year 1803, Aſton-Clinton, otherwiſe *Chivery*. The manor, or reputed manor of Dundridge, in this pariſh, was purchaſed in 1748, of the heir of J. M.

[l] Pat. 1 Hen. III.

[m] See Eſch. Edw. III. Ric. II. Hen. IV. and Hen. VI.

Baldwin

Baldwin eſq. in whoſe family it had been for a conſiderable time, by the father of Edward Darell eſq. the preſent proprietor. The advowſon of the rectory was ſold by the Gerards, to the principal and ſcholars of Jeſus College in Oxford, in 1727.

At *St. Leonards*, a hamlet of this pariſh, which lies about four miles diſtant from the mother church, is an ancient chapel, ſuppoſed to have been formerly a chantry chapel to the abbey of Miſſenden. In this chapel is the monument of General Cornelius Wood, a diſtinguiſhed officer in the reign of Queen Anne, who died in 1712: it is ornamented with a buſt of the general, in white marble, ſurrounded with military trophies. This chapel is endowed with an eſtate, veſted in ten truſtees, who have the appointment of the miniſter.

ASTON-SANDFORD, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about ſix miles ſouth-weſt of Ayleſbury, and about five north-eaſt of Thame in Oxfordſhire. This pariſh took its diſtinguiſhing name from the family of Sandford, who were proprietors of the manor in the 13th century, and brought it in marriage, with other eſtates, to the Veres, Earls of Oxford. It was purchaſed of Edward, Earl of Oxford, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir William Fleetwood, and continued in his deſcendants till about the year 1737: in 1745 it was the property of Charles Price eſq. and has ſince paſſed through ſeveral hands. The preſent proprietor is Mr. Barber of Cheapſide, in London, who is alſo patron of the rectory.

ASTWOOD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies ſix miles north-eaſt of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Bedford. The manor deſcended from the Paganells, who poſſeſſed it immediately after the conqueſt, to the Somerys, Suttons, and Botetorts; being afterwards divided; one moiety became the property of the Rokeleys, and (being called the manor of Rokeleys, or Church-end) paſſed to the families of Alban, Ingelton, Tyrrell, and Chibnall. It was ſold by the latter in 1667, to truſtees, for the uſe of John Thurloe, formerly Cromwell's ſecretary, then by attainder rendered incapable of acquiring or poſſeſſing any eſtate in his own name in England. Thurloe's daughter brought it in marriage to Francis Brace, attorney-at-law, whoſe ſon was the proprietor in 1735: it is now the property of Robert Trevor eſq. The other moiety of the manor conſtituting the eſtate, called the manor of Aſtwood-Bury, paſſed from the Botetorts to the Lords Zouche, of Harringworth, and afterwards to the families of Hardwood and Norwood. Tyringham Norwood eſq. whoſe anceſtor acquired this manor by purchaſe, in the year 1540, ſold it about the year 1620, to Samuel Cranmer eſq. a collateral deſcendant of the archbiſhop. Sir Cæſar Cranmer, and Mr. Brace, are both deſcribed by the

the editors of the Magna Britannia, publiſhed in 1720, as having ſeats at Aſtwood. The manor of Aſtwood-Bury is now the property of William Lowndes Stone eſq. whoſe grandfather, William Lowndes eſq. purchaſed it before the year 1752. The old manſion at Aſtwood-Bury, deſcribed by Browne Willis as one of the fineſt old ſeats in the county, (and ſaid to have been built by one of the Lords Zouche,) was pulled down in 1799.

In the church are memorials of the families of Cranmer and Lowndes; among the latter is the monument of William Lowndes eſq. auditor of the Exchequer, who died in 1775: he was ſon of Mr. Lowndes, ſecretary to the Treaſury: the great tithes of this pariſh, which were given by the founder of Tickford priory to that monaſtery, are now the property of Mr. Trevor: the vicarage is in the gift of the crown.

AYLESBURY, in the hundred of that name, and in the deanery of Wendover, is one of the principal towns in the county: it is diſtant from London about forty miles by way of Uxbridge and Amerſham, and thirty-nine by way of Tring and Berkhampſted.

Ayleſbury is a very ancient town, ſaid to be one of the ſtrongeſt garriſons of the Britons, and to have been taken by Cuthwulf, in 571[n]: its name does not occur again in hiſtory till the civil war of the 17th century: it was then an important garriſon of the parliament during the years 1644 and 1645[o], but it does not appear to have ſuſtained any ſiege from the royal army.

A religious houſe is ſaid to have been founded at Ayleſbury, in memory of St. Oſith, daughter of Fredewald, a Pagan king, who was born at Quarendon, and beheaded by two Daniſh pirates in 600: this houſe did not exiſt at the time of the diſſolution of monaſteries: it is mentioned by Leland, who ſays, on the authority of record, that it was of the Trinitarian order. There was alſo, at Ayleſbury, a houſe of Grey-Friars, at the ſouth end of the town, founded by James, Earl of Ormond, in 1387: their revenues were valued at 3l. 2s. 5d. *per annum* only, in the reign of Henry VIII. Dr. London, one of the viſitors of monaſteries, in his letter to Lord Cromwell, ſays, "I find them at Ayleſbury very poor, and in debt[p]." The ſite of the convent of the Grey-Friars was granted by King Henry

[n] Sax. Chron. [o] Clarendon's Hiſtory of the Rebellion, 8vo. edit. II. 493; and Heath's Chronicle, 75.

[p] The following is a copy of the ſurrender of their houſe, by which it ſeems, that they ſhewed little reluctance in complying with their monarch's will, and relinquiſhing a monaſtic life: "Forafmooche as wee, the warden & freers of the houſe of Saynte Frauncis of Aileſburie, comonly calld the Grey-Freers in Ayleſburie, in the countie of Buckingham, do profoundly conſider, that the perfection of Chriſtian

Henry VIII. to Sir John Baldwin, lord chief juſtice of the Common Pleas, and became his country-ſeat: it was afterwards a ſeat of the Pakingtons, till the time of the great civil war, during which it ſuſtained ſo much injury from the parliamentary army in garriſon at Ayleſbury, that it was never afterwards inhabited by the family.

Ayleſbury became a borough town by a charter of Queen Mary, in 1554: it was at the ſame time made a corporation, conſiſting of a bailiff, ten aldermen, and twelve capital burgeſſes, in whom the right of electing two repreſentatives in parliament was veſted; but Ayleſbury did not long continue to be a corporate town, the powers of this charter expiring not many years after the date of the grant, in conſequence of the corporation neglecting to fill up the vacancies cauſed by death: the right of election was from that time veſted in the inhabitants paying ſcot and lot, till the month of June, 1804, when, in conſequence of the notorious bribery and corruption which had been practiſed in the borough, at the time of the preceding general election, an act of parliament paſſed, by which, as the means of preventing ſuch practices in future, the right of electing the members for this borough was veſted in the freeholders of the three hundreds of Ayleſbury, jointly with ſuch perſons as had before a right to vote by the cuſtoms of the borough. The conſtables of the manor of Ayleſbury, and the prebendal manor by whom the town is at preſent governed, are ſtill the returning officers. During the *interregnum* this borough was repreſented by Scot and Mayne, two of the regicides.

Chriſtian livinge dothe notte conciſte in dome cerimonies, waringe of a grei cootte, diſgeſinge ourſelf after ſtraunge faſſions, dokynge, & beckynge, in gurdynge ourſelves wyth a gurdle, full of knotts, and other like papiſtical cerimonies, wherein wee have ben mooſt principally practiſed & miſſet in times paſte, butt the verie true waye to pleaſe Godd, & to live a true Chriſten man, withoute all ypocriſie & fayned diſſimulation, is ſincerely declarid unto us by our Maſter Chriſte, his evangeliſts & apoſtolls, being mynded hereafter to folowe the ſame, conforming ourſelfe unto the will & pleaſure of our Supreme Hedde under Godd in erthe, the Kynges Majeſtie, & notte to folowe henſeforth the ſuperſticious tradicions of oni forincicall potentat or poore; with mutual aſſent & conſent do ſubmit ourſelves unto the merci of our ſaide Soverayne Lorde, & wyth like mutual aſſent & conſent do ſurrendre & yelde up into the handes of the ſame, all our ſeide howſe of Sainte Frauncis in Aileſburie, comonly callid the Grey-Freers, in Aileſburie, with all lands, tenements, &c. and moſt humbly beſeching his mooſt noble grace to diſpoſe of us, & of the ſame, as beſt ſhall ſtonde wyth his moſt gracious pleaſure; & furthur freely to graunte unto every on of us his licence, under wretynge and ſcealle, to chaunge or abytts into ſecular faſſion, & to receve ſuch maner of livinge as other ſecular prifts comonly be preferred into. And we all faithfully ſhall pray unto Almightie Godde longe to preſerve his moſt noble Grace wyth increaſe of moch felicitie and honor; & in witneſs of all & ſingular the premiſes, wee the ſaid warden & covent of the Grey-Freers in Aileſburie, to theſe preſents have putt our covent ſceall the firſt day of October, in the thirtyth yere of the rayne of our moſt Soverayne Lord, King Henry the Eighthe.——Per me Henricum Martyne, Gardianum, per me Gulielmum May, Vice Gardianum;" and five others.

The

The town of Aylesbury has had, from time immemorial, a considerable market, the tolls of which were valued, in King Edward the Confessor's time, at 25l. *per annum*, and at the time of the Norman survey at 10l. The present market, which is on Saturday, is held under a charter of Queen Elizabeth, bearing date 1579: a market on Wednesday, granted by Queen Mary's charter, has been disused: King John granted this town a fair on St. Oswald's day: Queen Mary's charter grants two fairs; one at the Annunciation, the other on Holy-Rood day: Queen Elizabeth's charter confirms the fair on Holy-Rood day, and grants another on the eve of Palm-Sunday. There are now six annual fairs, January 20, March 24, May 8, June 14, September 25, and October 12.

The old town-hall, which stands in the middle of the market-place, was built at the expence of Chief Justice Baldwin, in the reign of King Henry VIII.; the king gave the timber. The assizes were removed to Aylesbury, at the instance of the lord chief justice, and a county gaol was built there. It must be observed, however, that the assizes were not from this time constantly held at Aylesbury, but for several years, in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James I. wholly at Little-Brickhill [s], now reduced to a small village. Since the year 1758, the Lent Assizes only have been held at Aylesbury, and the Summer Assizes at Buckingham. The act of parliament for building the present gaol and town-hall bears date 1737: the town-hall has been lately much improved, and the access to the courts rendered more commodious. Browne Willis seems to have considerably over-rated the population of this town, by calculating the number of its inhabitants, about 50 years ago, at 4000: their number, according to the returns made to parliament under the population act, in 1801, was then only 2605.

The manor of Aylesbury was anciently parcel of the demesne land of the crown: King John gave it to Geffrey Fitz-Piers, Earl of Essex, from whose family it passed successively, by female heirs, to the Botelers, or Butlers, afterwards Earls of Ormond, and the Boleynes. Thomas Boleyne, Earl of Wilts, father of Queen Anne Boleyne, sold it to Sir John Baldwin, lord chief justice of the Common Pleas, whose daughter brought it in marriage to Robert Pakington, one of the representatives in parliament for the city of London, who was barbarously murdered in 1537, on account of his known zeal for the reformed religion: his only son, Thomas, who was knighted by Queen Mary, was buried at Aylesbury, with great pomp, in 1571. Sir John Pakington, the grandson (son of Thomas), was a distinguished character in the court of Queen Elizabeth, a great favourite with her Majesty, and very popular in the country: he built a noble mansion at Westwood, in Worcestershire, which was his principal residence; but he lived occasionally at Aylesbury, where he enter-

[s] See the account of that parish.

tained King James and his Queen, attended by a very numerous retinue, with unuſual magnificence[r]. Upon his ſon's marriage, Sir John Pakington gave him his houſe at Ayleſbury[s]: about the ſame time (in 1620) he procured him to be made a baronet, he being then only 20 years of age: in 1623 the baronet was elected one of the repreſentatives for this borough, but died the next year: in the entry of his burial in the pariſh regiſter, he is called "Sir John Pakington, knt. and bart. the hopes of Ayleſbury:" his father died in 1625, and was alſo buried at Ayleſbury. During the civil war Sir John Pakington, the grandſon, was under the neceſſity of conveying the manor, market, and other eſtates at Ayleſbury, to Scot, the regicide, and others, as truſtees for the uſe of the town: at the reſtoration he recovered his property, but the houſe, which had ſuſtained much injury during the war, was never again made habitable: his deſcendants continued to poſſeſs the manor, market, &c. till the year 1801, when they were ſold by the preſent Sir John Pakington, of Weſtwood, to the Marquis of Buckingham.

The manor of Broughton-Hollands, alias Staveley, partly in this pariſh, was for many generations in the Pakingtons, and is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham.

The ancient family of Ayleſbury, who took their name from this town, held a conſiderable eſtate here, which paſſed afterwards by marriage to the Chaworths, by the ſervice of finding ſtraw for the king's bed, and to ſtrew his chamber; and three eels, when he ſhould come to Ayleſbury in winter; and when he ſhould viſit it in ſummer, ſtraw for his bed, graſs for his chamber, and two green geeſe; but theſe ſervices were not to be claimed more than three times in the year, in caſe the king's viſits ſhould be more frequent.

The pariſh church is a large and handſome Gothic ſtructure, but contains little that is remarkable: there is a monument in memory of Sir Henry Lee's lady, who died in 1584; and an effigies, in white marble, dug up ſome years ago in the ruins of the church of the Grey-Friars, and ſuppoſed by Browne Willis to be that of Sir Robert Lee, who died in 1460: the arms on the ſurcoat are a feſſe, between three leopards' faces. In the chancel are tablets in memory of Sir Francis Bernard bart. governor of Maſſachuſet's-Bay, who died in 1779, and his lady.

The rectory of Ayleſbury forms a prebendal corps in the church of Lincoln: this eſtate was held on lives by the family of Mead, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the celebrated John Wilkes, alderman of London, who repreſented the borough in parliament, and reſided in the rectory-houſe adjoining the church, an old manſion which he partly rebuilt, and which was afterwards in the occupation of Sir Francis Bernard. Mr. Wilkes ſold his intereſt in this eſtate to Sir William Lee:

[r] Kimber's Baronetage.

[s] This houſe was on the ſite of the Grey Friars. See p. 502.

the fee-ſimple of it was purchaſed under the act of parliament for the redemption of the land-tax, by Robert Browne eſq. who has ſince ſold the prebendal manor to the Marquis of Buckingham: the vicarage is in the gift of the prebendary. The manor of *Walton*, (a hamlet in this pariſh, where was formerly a chapel,) conſtituted the corps of another prebend in the church of Lincoln, called the prebend of Heydor *cum* Walton. The leaſe of this prebend, which had been for many years in Lord Melbourn's family, is now veſted in Lord Carrington, who purchaſed it, a few years ago, of Mr. Rickford, of Ayleſbury. The hamlet of Walton was incloſed by act of parliament in 1799: the townſhip and liberties of Ayleſbury had been incloſed, purſuant to an act of parliament paſſed in 1770: allotments of land were aſſigned under both acts to the impropriator and vicar, in lieu of tithes.

There were two ancient hoſpitals in Ayleſbury, dedicated to St. John and St. Leonard, founded by certain burgeſſes of the town, for the ſupport of lepers and other poor: they had both gone to decay before 1360, as appears by a record of that date [z].

Lord Chief Juſtice Baldwin was a great benefactor to this town, by making cauſeys, and improving the roads in its immediate vicinity. John Bedford had before (anno 1494) conferred a more laſting benefit, by giving lands to the town, which now produce at leaſt 300l. *per annum*, for the repair of highways, and the relief of the poor: an act of parliament for ſettling the lands thus given by John Bedford, paſſed in the year 1586. Mr. Henry Philips, in the year 1714, built a grammar-ſchool in this town, and gave for its endowment the ſum of 5000l. with which was purchaſed the manor of Broughton-Abbots, in the neighbouring pariſh of Bierton: the ſalary of the maſter, which is diſcretional, is now about 60l. *per annum*.

There is no manufacture carried on in this town, excepting that of lace. There are meeting-houſes for the preſbyterians, anabaptiſts, quakers, and methodiſts.

Barton-Hartshorne, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, is a ſmall village, lying about four miles ſouth-weſt of the county town: there were anciently two manors in this pariſh, which belonged to the monaſteries of Oſeney and Chetwode: the manor, which had belonged to the monks of Oſeney, was granted by King Henry VIII. to John Welleſborne, paſſed by purchaſe to the Paxtons, in 1570, and from them by female heirs to the families of Butterfield and Southam. Since the publication of Browne Willis's hiſtory of the hundred of Buckingham, it has been divided into ſeveralties. The other manor, after the ſurrender of the priory of Chetwode, was granted by King Henry VIII. to William Riſley, whoſe

[z] Dugdale's Monaſticon, II. 396.

deſcendant,

deſcendant, Paul Riſley eſq. was the proprietor in the year 1735: it is now in the family of Bowles, who have poſſeſſed it ever ſince the year 1759, if not before: the rectory, together with the advowſon of the benefice, which is a donative or curacy, has been always annexed to this manor.

BEACONSFIELD, a ſmall market town in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, is diſtant about 23 miles from London, on the road to Oxford through High-Wycombe: the market day is Wedneſday, but the market is almoſt wholly diſcontinued, the neighbouring towns of Wycombe and Uxbridge having drawn away moſt of the buſineſs: there is a fair on Old Candlemas day, and another on Holy Thurſday. Browne Willis calculated the number of inhabitants, about 50 years ago, at 550: their number, in 1801, according to the returns made under the Population Act, was 1149.

The manor of Beaconsfield was anciently an eſtate of the Windſors, and afterwards became the property of Burnham-Abbey: it now belongs to Edmund Waller eſq. of Farmington, in Glouceſterſhire, in whoſe family it has been for many years: their anceſtor, Edmund Waller, the celebrated poet, was proprietor of this manor and that of Hall-Barns, and reſided at Hall-Barns, the ancient family ſeat, now in the occupation of Mr. Maxwell: among the pictures at this manſion is a portrait of the poet, painted when he was 23 years of age; another, which is ſuppoſed to have been intended for him at a more advanced age; and a portrait of a lady, ſaid to be that of Sachariſſa, the favourite ſubject of his muſe. Edmund Waller was born, as before mentioned, at Coleſhill, in the pariſh of Amerſham, and lies buried in the church-yard at Beaconsfield, where is a monument to his memory, with the following inſcription: "*Heus Viator, tumulatum vides Edmundum Waller, qui tanti nominis pocta, et idem avitis opibus inter primos ſpectabilis, muſis ſe dedit & patriæ. Nondum octodecenarius, inter ardua regni tractantes, ſedem habuit à burgo de Amerſham miſſus. Hic vitæ curſus, nec oneri defuit ſenex, vixitque ſemper populo charus, principibus in deliciis, admiratione omnibus. Hic conditur, tumulo ſub eodem, rarâ virtute & multâ prole nobilis uxor Maria ex Breſſyorum familiâ, cum Edmundo Waller conjuge chariſſimo, quem ter & decies lætum fecit patrem 5 filiis & filiabus 8 quos mundo dedit & cælum rediit.*

"*Edmundi Waller hic jacet id quantum morti ceſſit; qui inter poetas ſui temporis facile princeps, lauream quem meruit adoleſcens octogenarius haud abdicavit. Huic debet patria lingua, quod credas, ſi Græcé Latinéque intermitterent muſæ loqui, amarent Anglicé. Hoc marmore Edmundo Waller, Mariæque ex ſecundis nuptiis conjugi, pientiſſimis parentibus, pientiſſimé parentavit Edmundus filius. Honores benè merentibus extremos dedit quos ipſe fugit E. L. W. I. F. III. G. ex Teſtamento H. M. P. menſe Julii*, 1700.

" *Edmundus Waller, cui hoc Marmor ſacrum eſt, Colſhill naſcendi locum habuit, Cantabrigiam ſtudendi, patrem Robertum, ex Hamdenâ ſtirpe matrem. Cœpit vivere 3° Martii A. D.* 1605. *Prima Uxor Anna Edwardi Banks filia unica & hæres; ex primâ bis pater factus, ex ſecundâ tredecies, cui & duo luſtra ſuperſtes, Obiit* 21 *Octob. A. D.* 1687."

Gregories, in this pariſh, which belonged alſo to the Wallers, has of late years acquired much celebrity, as the ſeat of Edmund Burke; who, for critical taſte and brilliancy of language, will ever be ranked in the firſt claſs of Engliſh writers; whoſe manners were ſo engaging, whoſe converſation talents were ſo faſcinating, that his company was eagerly ſought after by all who could make pretenſions to kindred genius; and Gregories was the frequent reſort of the moſt eminent literary and political characters of the age. Mr. Burke died at Gregories, (which is now the ſeat of his widow) in 1797, and was buried in Beaconsfield church, where a marble tablet has been put up with this ſhort inſcription to his memory:—" Near this place lies interred all that was mortal of the Right Honourable Edmund Burke, who died on the 9th of July, 1797, aged 68 years." The inſcription records alſo his only ſon, Richard Burke, who repreſented the borough of Malton in parliament, and his brother, Richard Burke, recorder of Briſtol: they both died in the year 1794.

Wilton-park, in this pariſh, was for many years a ſeat of the family of Baſill, now of James Dupré eſq.

In the pariſh church are ſeveral memorials of the Wallers of Gregories: in a chapel, on the ſouth ſide of the chancel, is an ancient altar-tomb for one of the Bulſtrode family. The advowſon of the rectory was purchaſed by the preſident and ſcholars of Magdalen College, in Oxford, about the year 1705.

Bechampton, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about ſix miles north-eaſt of the county town, and about three miles ſouth-weſt of Stony-Stratford. The manor paſſed either by purchaſe or inheritance, through the families of Fitz-Richard, Bechampton, Wolf, Edy, Foſter and Pigott. Thomas Pigott ſold it, about the year 1609, to Sir Thomas Bennet, Lord Mayor of London. Sir Simon Bennet, his ſon, whoſe principal reſidence was at Bechampton, was created a baronet in 1627: this Sir Simon was a great benefactor to the poor, and to Univerſity College in Oxford: the title became extinct at his death, which happened in 1631. The manor of Bechampton, after having been poſſeſſed by his nephew, deſcended by a female heir to the noble family of Cecil, and is now the property of the Marquis of Saliſbury. The remains of the manſion, which was the ſeat of the Bennets, have been converted into a farm-houſe; the great hall is ſtanding.

In the pariſh church are ſome monuments of the Bennet family, among which is that of Sir Simon Bennet, put up by Univerſity College more than 100 years after his death: it was erected not long after the publication of Browne Willis's hiſtory of the hundred of Buckingham, in which, the intention of the college is mentioned, and much blame imputed to them for having delayed it ſo long.

The rectory of Bechampton was formerly in moieties; the patronage of one of theſe was given by Robert Fitz-Neale to the priory of Luffield, in 1329[a]; the other was in the lord of the manor: in 1470 they were united, on condition of alternate preſentation. Since the reformation, the advowſon has been wholly in the lords of the manor.

Mr. William Elmer, who died in 1652, by his will, bearing date 1648, founded a free grammar-ſchool in this pariſh. The ſchool-houſe, built out of the profits of the eſtate, was finiſhed in 1667. By the founder's will, the maſter muſt be a ſingle man, and reſide at the ſchool-houſe; the ſchool is endowed with lands, (now let at 43l. *per annum*,) charged with the payment of 40s. *per annum* each, to eight poor men, and 20s. *per annum* each to eight poor women; three of the men, and as many of the women, muſt be inhabitants of Bechampton. Mr. Elmer gave alſo 5l. *per annum* to apprentice a child, and ſome lands for the relief of the poor, the repair of highways, &c.

BIDDLESDON, or BITTLESDEN, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about ſix miles north-weſt of the county town, on the borders of Northamptonſhire. The manor was in the reign of Henry I. the property of Robert de Mepperſhall, who is ſaid by Camden to have forfeited it, for ſtealing one of the king's hounds; but other writers ſay, that it was forfeited as an eſcheat to the Earl of Leiceſter, as his lord paramount. The fact, as ſtated in the original record, printed in Dugdale's Monaſticon, appears to be, that Robert de Mepperſhall having been ſued in the King's Court, for ſtealing a dog, gave this manor to Geffrey de Clinton, the king's chamberlain, to befriend him in the ſuit; but having married ſome time afterwards a relation of the chamberlain's, it was given back to him. After this, going to reſide at his native place, Mepperſhall, in Bedfordſhire, he neglected to pay the ſervices due to the Earl of Leiceſter (as his lord paramount) for the manor of Biddleſdon, whereupon the earl ſeized the manor into his own hands, and gave it to Ernald de Boſco, his ſteward. De Boſco, being fearful that he ſhould be obliged at ſome future period to reſtore it, gave it, with the Earl of Leiceſter's permiſſion, to the monks of Gerendon, in Leiceſterſhire, to the intent

[a] Dugdale's Monaſticon.

that

that they might found a convent of the Ciſtercian order at Biddleſdon, which was done accordingly, in the year 1147. The revenues of their monaſtery were valued in the reign of Henry VIII. at 125l. 4s. 4d. *per annum.* After the reformation, its ſite was granted, together with the manor, to Thomas Lord Wriotheſley: this eſtate ſoon afterwards paſſed by purchaſe to the Peckhams: having been ſeized by Queen Elizabeth, in ſatisfaction for a debt due to the crown, ſhe gave it to Arthur Lord Grey, on the attainder of whoſe ſon, in 1603, it reverted to the crown, and was granted in 1614 to Sir George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham. George Villiers, the ſecond and laſt duke of that name, ſold it in 1681 to Mr. Sayer, of whoſe family it was purchaſed by Earl Verney. Biddleſdon-houſe, which was for a time one of Lord Verney's ſeats, is now the reſidence of George Morgan eſq. late of Abercothy, in the county of Carmarthen, who, jointly with his brother, Dr. Morgan, prebendary of Glouceſter, purchaſed the eſtate in the year 1791, of Lady Fermanagh, niece of the late Earl Verney.

Browne Willis, in his hiſtory of the hundred of Buckingham, tells us, that in 1712, there were conſiderable remains of the abbey and conventual church; part of the eaſt ſide of the cloiſters, part of a tower, a ſmall chapel, and the chapter-houſe, a handſome room, about forty feet ſquare, with a vaulted roof, ſupported by four pillars: in the chapel was a monument of one of the Lords Zouch. The ſame author alſo mentions the tombs of Thomas Billing, Lord Chief Juſtice of the Court of Common-Pleas, who died in 1481; one of the Lovett family, and ſome others. All traces of the abbey had been ſo entirely deſtroyed by Mr. Sayer, before the publication of Mr. Willis's work, that he had not left any thing that could indicate the ſite of an ancient building. A modern chapel, built by Mr. Sayer, adjoining the houſe, ſerves as the pariſh church. Mr. Morgan is impropriator of the great tithes, and patron of the benefice, which is a donative or curacy.

The abbot and convent had, in 1315, a charter for a weekly market, at Biddleſdon, on Mondays, and a fair on the feſtival of St. Margaret: it is now a very ſmall village. At *Everſaw*, in this pariſh, was formerly a chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas.

Bierton, or Burton, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about a mile and a half north-eaſt of the town of Ayleſbury: Sir John Pakington had a manor in this pariſh, which has been, from time immemorial, an appendage to that of Ayleſbury, and was purchaſed with it in 1801, by the Marquis of Buckingham. Another manor, called from a family who poſſeſſed it in the reign of Edward II. Bierton-Stonors, with Wandesford, is alſo the property of the

Marquis of Buckingham. A third manor has always paſſed with that of Hulcot, and is now the property of John Baker eſq.

The dean and chapter of Lincoln are patrons of the vicarage, which is in their peculiar juriſdiction. Sir George Lee is leſſee of the rectory, under the dean and chapter.

In this pariſh is a large hamlet, called *Broughton*. The manor of Broughton formerly belonged to the Lords Lovell and Holland, and, at an earlier period, probably to the family of Staveley, it being called the manor of Broughton-Staveley, otherwiſe Broughton-Hollands. It has been of late years in the Pakingtons, and was ſold by Sir John Pakington, in 1801, to the Marquis of Buckingham. The manor of Broughton-Abbots, which extends into the pariſh of Hulcot, belongs to the truſtees of the grammar-ſchool at Ayleſbury.

The pariſhes of Bierton and Hulcot have been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1779, when allotments of land were aſſigned in lieu of the rectorial and vicarial tithes. Rent charges were allotted in lieu of the tithes of the Ayleſbury ſchool incloſure, and an allotment of land was given to the poor as a compenſation for their rights.

BLECHLEY, or BLETCHLEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about a mile and a half to the ſouth-weſt of Fenny-Stratford. Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, poſſeſſed by grant from William Rufus the whole landed property of this pariſh, which was inherited by Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford, who married his grandaughter Roeſia. Helena, daughter of the Earl of Hertford, brought it in marriage to John de Grey, whoſe great grandſon, Reginald, bequeathed the manor of Over or Church-Bletchley, with thoſe of Water-Eaton and Water-Hall, both in this pariſh, to his eldeſt ſon, John Lord Grey, of Wilton, and the manor of Weſt or Old Bletchley, to his younger ſon Roger, who became Lord Grey of Ruthin. The manor of Water-Eaton was held by the ſervice of keeping a falcon, for flight, for the king's uſe; and for the charges of keeping it, the lord was entitled, on the day that he carried it to court, to a horſe with its equipage, the king's table, with the treſſels and table-cloth, all the veſſels with which the king was ſerved on that day, and a caſk of wine, as ſoon as the king had taſted it. The manor of Water-Hall was held by the ſervice of finding a man on a horſe without a ſaddle, a bow without a ſtring, and an arrow without a head[b]. The deſcendants of Lord Grey, of Wilton, continued to poſſeſs theſe manors, and that of Church-Bletchley, above 400 years, until the attainder of Thomas Lord Grey, in 1603.

[b] Blount's Tenures.

King

King James granted them, in 1606, to George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham. In Oliver Cromwell's time they were ſold, as confiſcated lands, to Sir Philip Skippon. George Villiers, the younger, Duke of Buckingham, recovered them at the reſtoration, and, in 1674, ſold them to Dr. Thomas Willis, a very eminent phyſician, grandfather of Mr. Browne Willis, the celebrated antiquary. The other manor (Weſt Bletchley) was purchaſed of Henry Grey, Earl of Kent, by Catherine, Ducheſs Dowager of Buckingham, whoſe ſon, the ſecond duke, having ſold it to Dr. Willis, all the manors became again united.

The Lords Grey, of Wilton, had in ancient times a ſeat at Water-Eaton, and another at Water-Hall, both long ago deſtroyed. Browne Willis, in 1711, built a houſe for his own reſidence at Water-Hall, which has been lately pulled down by its preſent owner, Mr. Harriſon. Browne Willis's grandſon, the late John Willis Fleming eſq. [c] ſold the manors of Bletchley, Water-Eaton, and Fenny-Stratford, (which is alſo in this pariſh,) to the Rev. Philip Barton, of Great Brickhill, and they are now the property of his deviſee, Ph. Duncombe Pauncefort eſq.

The pariſh church, a handſome Gothic ſtructure, was repaired and ornamented at the expence of Mr. Browne Willis, who added the pinnacles to the tower, re-caſt the bells, and gave a new font. The internal decorations, on which he expended a large ſum, but ill accord with the ſtyle of the building; the altar-piece, and the ſcreen between the nave and chancel, are Græcian, and the pillars painted to reſemble veined marble. It appears by a book of memorandums, bequeathed by Mr. Willis to the rectors of Bletchley, that he expended in the whole, 1346l. on the repairs and ornaments of the church, to which he was induced, he ſays, by the circumſtance of his father and mother having been there interred, eſteeming it a greater act of piety, and as great a reſpect to their memory, as if he had erected a coſtly monument over their remains. Mr. Willis made it his ſolemn requeſt to the future rectors of Bletchley, that they would, out of remembrance to his many benefactions to the pariſh, either preach an annual ſermon themſelves, or cauſe it to be preached by their curates, on the 8th of September, being the anniverſary of the dedication of the church, exhorting the pariſhioners in what manner they ought to celebrate the wake or feaſt, as had been done by his couſin, Mr. Archdeacon Benſon, then rector (afterwards Biſhop of Glouceſter,) and his predeceſſor, Dr. Wells.

In the chancel at Bletchley is a remarkable tablet, in memory of Dr. Sparke, rector of the pariſh, who died in 1616, with his portrait very neatly engraved on copper, and extremely well preſerved, being incloſed within a wooden caſe. It ſeems

[c] He was the ſon of his eldeſt ſon, Thomas Willis eſq. of Water-Hall, and took the name of Fleming.

by

by the ſtyle to have been the work of Dr. Haydock, the ſame artiſt who engraved the portrait of Eraſmus Williams, (a contemporary of Dr. Sparke's,) in Tingewick church. There is a remarkable monument alſo, in memory of Mr. Edward Tayler, and his wife Faith, with their portraits (full faces) ſketched in white on black marble, and ornamented with various devices. The inſcription is very quaint, with anagrams, &c. There are memorials on flat ſtones for Mr. Browne Willis's father and mother, and others of his family. In the north aiſle is a monument for his wife, a bad imitation of an ancient altar-tomb: it appears by the inſcription, that both Mrs. Willis and himſelf were deſcended from the ancient lords of the manor of Bletchley, whoſe arms are placed round the aiſle, painted on wooden tablets: in this aiſle alſo is the tomb of Richard Lord Grey, who died in 1442, at Water-Hall; the effigies of the deceaſed was repaired and re-cut, by Weſton the ſtatuary, at Mr. Willis's expence.

William Cole, the Cambridge antiquary, was rector of Bletchley from 1753 to 1767: the rectory is in the patronage of John Willis eſq. to whom the advowſon was bequeathed, with other property, by his couſin, the late John Willis Fleming eſq.

*Fenny-Stratford*, a ſmall decayed market-town, ſituated on the road to Liverpool, (the ancient Watling-Street,) 45 miles from London, ſtands partly in the pariſh of Bletchley, and partly in that of Simpſon. The chapel, which is in Bletchley, having been dilapidated ever ſince the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was rebuilt by ſubſcriptions, procured by the exertions of Mr. Browne Willis. The firſt ſtone was laid by Mr. Willis, in 1724, on St. Martin's day, and the chapel was dedicated by him to that ſaint, for a reaſon which ſtrongly indicates that whimſical diſpoſition for which he was remarkable, becauſe his grandfather died on St. Martin's-day, in St. Martin's lane[d].

The

[d] When the chapel was finiſhed, he cauſed an engraved portrait of his grandfather to be hung up at the entrance, with the following lines:

"In honour of thy memory, bleſſed ſhade,
Was the foundation of this chapel laid,
Purchaſed by thee, thy ſon, and preſent heir
Owe theſe three manors to thy art and care;
For this may all thy race thanks ever pay,
And yearly celebrate St. Martin's day."

The chapel was conſecrated on the 27th of May, 1730, upon which occaſion Mr. Willis addreſſed his dioceſan in the following ſpeech:

The ceiling of Fenny-Stratford chapel is adorned with numerous coats of arms, being thoſe of the nobility and gentry who ſubſcribed towards the building. Within the rails of the communion table lie the remains of the celebrated antiquary, who may juſtly be conſidered as the founder. On his tomb is the following inſcription: —*Hic ſitus eſt Browne Willis, antiquarius, cujus cl. avi æternæ memoriæ Tho. Willis archiatri totius Europæ celeberrimi, defuncti die Sancti Martini A. D.* 1675, *hæc capella exiguum monumentum eſt: Obiit* 5° *die Feb. A. D.* 1760, *Ætatis ſuæ* 78. *O Chriſte, ſoter, & Judex, huic peccatorum primo, miſericors & propitius eſto.*" Mr. Willis's corpſe was attended to the place of interment, at his own requeſt, by the corporation of Buckingham, to which town he had ever borne a ſingular affection. By his will, he bequeaths a benefaction for a ſermon in this chapel on St. Martin's day, and he requeſts that the rector of Bletchley may never have the cure of Fenny-Stratford; but he directs that if the rector will contribute 6*l. per annum* towards his ſalary, he ſhall have the appointment of the curate, and he requeſts his heirs to augment the curacy: it does not appear that this has ever been done; nor has the rector acquired the patronage of the chapel, which ſtill belongs to Mr. Willis's family. To the manuſcript collections, as well as to the printed work of Mr. Willis, we have been much indebted in our brief notices of this county. His printed

" Right Reverend Father in God,

" I humbly beg leave to preſent to your Lordſhip the ſtate of the town of Stratford, in the county of Buckingham: It had formerly a handſome ſpacious chapel, conſiſting of two or three aiſles, with an embattled tower, in which were four bells. In this chapel, which was in the pariſh of Bletchley, were viſitations frequently held for the archdeaconry of Buckingham; but this being ſacrilegiouſly demoliſhed, to the great detriment of the inhabitants of the ſaid town of Stratford, they have been for many years deſtitute of a place for divine worſhip, and neceſſitated to come above a mile and a quarter to church, by reaſon of which unhappy circumſtances, elderly and infirm people have been prevented from hearing divine ſervice and ſermons, while the younger ſort have made it a pretence to frequent no worſhip at all, and others have reſorted to ſchiſmatical teachers, and ſeparated themſelves from the communion of our moſt excellent Church: all which has tended to the ſcandal of religion in general, and the profanation of the Lord's day in particular. To put a ſtop to theſe bad conſequences, and take away ſo juſt a reproach, (having purchaſed the ground whereon our former chapel ſtood,) we have, through the liberality of ſeveral noble and generous benefactors, at length been enabled to erect and finiſh a decent chapel, and to incloſe a cemetery; and in order to provide for a miniſter to officiate therein, we have endowed it in ſome meaſure ourſelves, being thereunto excited by the encouragement given us in obtaining the bounty of our late excellent Queen Anne; and having thus prepared matters, by the aſſiſtance of our worthy rector, Mr. Archdeacon, Dr. Martin Benſon, we are now become earneſt petitioners to your Lordſhip, that this ſtructure ſo erected and eſtabliſhed, with the cemetery adjoining, may, by your ſacred office and miniſtry, be ſeparated from common and profane uſes, and appropriated to the worſhip of Almighty God, who has, of his great mercy and goodneſs, thus reſtored to us the place of old dedicated to his honour, and put it into the hearts of his ſervants to rebuild it."

work

work contains only the hiſtory of the town and hundred of Buckingham, but he had made large collections towards a hiſtory of the whole county, now in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. Theſe collections have been found extremely uſeful, particularly in tracing the hiſtory of landed property, a department of topography in which he evinces much induſtry and ſkill. His church notes are chiefly valuable, as recording many monumental inſcriptions, which have ſince his time been either removed or obliterated. In taſte he was certainly deficient, for he paſſes over without mention the moſt beautiful ſpecimens of ancient architecture, while he dwells with minuteneſs on the dimenſions of the buildings, the number of bells, their inſcriptions, &c.

Fenny-Stratford had from time immemorial a market on Mondays, which was confirmed by charter in 1609: during the civil war it was diſcontinued, but revived after the reſtoration. In 1665, this ſmall town was much depopulated by the plague, of which 139 perſons died; the inns were ſhut up, and the road turned for a while into another direction[e]: this misfortune proved alſo fatal to the market, which has never flouriſhed ſince, and has now been many years wholly diſcontinued. John de Grey, in 1269, procured a grant of a fair to laſt ſeven days, at the feſtival of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary; the charter of 1609 grants a fair to be held on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of April, and another on Michaelmas-day: there are now four annual fairs, April 19th, July 18th, Oct. 11, and Nov. 28: the fair on the 19th of April is chiefly for barren cows; that of Oct. 11, chiefly for hiring ſervants.

There was anciently a gild or fraternity at Fenny-Stratford, dedicated to St. Margaret and St. Catharine, which was founded in 1494, by Roger and John Hebbes. It conſiſted of an alderman, two wardens, and an indefinite number of brethren and ſiſters: the Brotherhood-houſe is now the Bull-Inn: the Swan at this town was an inn bearing the ſame name in 1474.

The hamlet of Fenny-Stratford was incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1790: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

BLEDLOW, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about ſix miles ſouth-eaſt of Thame. The manor of this place, which belonged formerly to the alien priory of Okeborne, was given by King Henry VI. to John, Duke of Bedford, and, after his death, to the provoſt and fellows of Eton College, under whom it has been for ſome time held on leaſe,

[e] MS. Collections by the Rev. William Cole, the Cambridge antiquary, (who was rector of Bletchley,) now in the Britiſh Muſeum.

by the family of Badcock. The Rev. Benjamin Anderſon, and Thomas Spiers eſq. give a deputation for an eſtate, called the manor of Bledlow, late Corhams.

In the pariſh church, which is of the earlieſt Gothic architecture, are memorials of the family of Croſſe, who had a ſeat here, and held the rectorial manor under the provoſt and fellows of Eton College, to whom the rectory, which had belonged before to the abbey of Greſtein, in Normandy, was appropriated in 1444. The vicarage is in the patronage of Lord Carrington, who has lately purchaſed the leaſe of the rectorial manor, (to which a part of the impropriation is annexed,) and the advowſon, of Mr. Whitbread. The latter bought this eſtate of the Haytons, who inherited by female deſcent from the family of Croſſe.

Bledlow church ſtands near the edge of a rock, under which, in a deep glen overgrown with trees, and exhibiting ſome pictureſque ſcenery, little to be expected from the character of the neighbouring country, iſſue ſome tranſparent ſprings, which form there a pond called the Lyde. They are ſaid to wear away the rock, which has occaſioned the following local proverb:

"They who live and do abide
Shall ſee Bledlow Church fall into the Lyde."

Borstall, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Wendover, lies about nine miles north-weſt of Thame, in Oxfordſhire, and about 13 miles weſt of Ayleſbury. Tradition ſays, that the ſite of this manor was given by King Edward the Confeſſor to one Nigel, for his ſervices in ſlaying a wild boar, which infeſted the foreſt of Bernwood, to be held by cornage, or the ſervice of a horn; and that the manſion built by him on this land was called Boar-ſtall, in memory of the ſlain boar. It appears from an inquiſition taken in the year 1265, that Sir John Fitz-Nigel or Fitz-Neale then held a hide of arable land, called the Dere-hide, at Borſtall, and a wood, called Hull-Wood, by grand ſerjeanty, as keeper of the foreſt of Bernwood; that their anceſtors had poſſeſſed theſe lands, and this office, before the conqueſt, and held them by the ſervice of a horn, as the charter of the ſaid foreſt; that they had been unjuſtly withheld by the family of Liſures, of whom William Fitz-Nigel, father of Sir John, had been obliged to purchaſe them[r]. It appears that, about three years before the date of this inquiſition, Borſtall-houſe was the property of William Belet[s]. It is certain that the manor of Borſtall paſſed by marriage from the Fitz-Neales to the family of Handlo. John de Handlo had the king's licence to fortify his manſion at Borſtall, in 1312. In 1327 he was ſum-

[r] Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 265. [s] Pat. 48 Hen. III. m. 16.

moned

moned to parliament as a baron. From his deſcendants the manor of Borſtall paſſed by heirs female to the families of De la Pole, James, Rede, Denham, Baniſtre, Lewis, and Aubrey. The preſent proprietor is Sir John Aubrey bart. whoſe family have been in poſſeſſion more than a century. It is remarkable that this manor has paſſed, without alienation or forfeiture, through a ſucceſſion of female heirs, from a period prior to the conqueſt. Sir John Aubrey has in his poſſeſſion a very ancient horn, ſuppoſed to be the ſame by which this manor was originally held by the Fitz-Neales. The horn, which is thought to be that of a buffalo, is of a dark brown colour, variegated and veined like tortoiſe-ſhell. It is two feet four inches in length, on the convex bend, the diameter of the larger end is three inches; at each end it is tipt with ſilver, gilt, and has a wreath of leather, by which it is hung about the neck. This horn has been figured in the third volume of the Archæologia. Bernwood was diſforeſted in the reign of James I.

Borſtall-houſe was one of King Charles's garriſons, in 1644, and perhaps at an earlier period of the civil war. It appears that in the Spring of that year, it having been thought uſeleſs to retain poſſeſſion of ſome of the leſſer garriſons, this houſe (among others) was evacuated, and the fortifications deſtroyed. No ſooner was this done, than the parliamentary garriſon at Ayleſbury, which had experienced much inconvenience from the excurſions of their neighbours at Borſtall, took poſſeſſion, and ſoon became as great a nuiſance to the king's garriſon at Oxford, as the former garriſon at Borſtall had been to them, by ſeizing proviſions and obſtructing the intercourſe between Oxford and the neighbouring country. The ill policy of having evacuated this garriſon being now apparent, Col. Gage undertook to reduce it, and ſucceeded; with little reſiſtance he got poſſeſſion of the church and out-works, and then commenced ſo heavy a fire with his cannon againſt the houſe, that the beſieged ſhortly ſurrendered it: Sir Edward Walker ſays, that lady Denham, the owner, conſcious of her diſaffection, ſtole away in diſguiſe[h]. Col. Gage left a garriſon there, which nearly ſupported itſelf by depredations in Buckinghamſhire, particularly in the neighbourhood of Ayleſbury[i]. In May 1645, General Skippon attacked Borſtall-houſe, and afterwards Fairfax himſelf, but both failed in the attempt. The next year Fairfax was more ſucceſsful, and it was ſurrendered to him on the 10th of June, after a ſiege of 18 hours, by the governor, Sir Charles Campion, who was afterwards ſlain at Colcheſter[k]. All that now remains of this houſe is a large gateway, with turrets at the corners, ſufficiently

[h] Hiſtorical Diſcourſes, p. 26. [i] See Clarendon's Hiſtory of the Rebellion, 8vo. Vol. II. p. 493, 494. [k] Heath's Chronicle, p. 111.

ſpacious

ſpacious to have been occaſionally the reſidence of Sir John Aubrey's family, whoſe chief ſeat in this county is at the neighbouring village of Dourton.

Borſtall was formerly a chapel to Oakley: it was made parochial in 1418; an annual acknowledgment of two ſhillings is ſtill paid to the mother-church. The church of Borſtall, which was nearly demoliſhed in the civil war, was repaired by Lady Denham: it contains nothing remarkable. The great tithes of this pariſh were given, by the Empreſs Maud, to the monks of St. Frideſwide, in Oxford: the impropriation is now veſted in Sir John Aubrey, who is patron of the vicarage.

At Borſtall is a large field, called poor-folks paſture, given by King William III. in 1699, to the pariſhes of Brill and Oakley; it now produces a rent of 110l. *per annum* to Brill, and 75l. *per annum* to Oakley.—*Arrengrove* is a hamlet of this pariſh.

BRADENHAM, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies about four miles north-weſt of High-Wycombe. The manor belonged in the 13th century to the Earls of Warwick: towards the end of that century it came into the poſſeſſion of the Bradenhams, (who took their name from the village,) and was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Falweſley, Wiltſhire, Botiler, and Scot. After this, Bradenham was for many years a ſeat of the noble family of Windſor, having been purchaſed in 1500 by Sir Andrews Windſor, who was, in 1529, created Lord Windſor of Bradenham. In 1566 Queen Elizabeth, being on her return from the univerſity of Oxford, was moſt ſumptuouſly entertained at Bradenham, by Edward, Lord Windſor, whoſe kinſman, Miles Windſor, ſpoke an oration on the occaſion, which was highly commended by her majeſty. This Lord Windſor, by his laſt will, directed a hoſpital to be founded at Bradenham, for ſix poor men, the rector of Bradenham to be the maſter, and to have 20 marks a-year as an augmentation to his living; and he requeſted that letters patent might be procured to incorporate the ſaid rector and poor men, by the name of the maſter and brethren of the hoſpital of Bradenham. His executors ſeem altogether to have neglected their truſt, as far as related to the foundation of this hoſpital, which never took place. About the year 1640, Bradenham became the ſeat of Sir Edmund Pye bart. who purchaſed the manor of the Windſor family. Sir Edmund left iſſue two daughters, the elder of whom married John Lord Lovelace, whoſe daughter and heir (being alſo the repreſentative of the Wentworth family, and Baroneſs Wentworth in her own right) married Sir Henry Johnſon, and died without iſſue in 1745,

when this, and other eſtates, devolved to the preſent Viſcount Wentworth[1], who in 1787 ſold it to John Hicks eſq. Bradenham-Houſe was built by William Lord Windſor, the ſecond of that title, but it has not much the appearance of antiquity, having undergone ſeveral alterations: it has lately been let by Mr. Hicks, together with the manor and demeſne lands, on a leaſe of 21 years, to Peregrine Dealtry eſq. The pariſh church contains nothing worthy of note, excepting the tomb of Joanna Mitchen, who died at the age of 103. A chapel on the north ſide of the chancel was built by William Lord Windſor, in 1542, as appears by an inſcription round the cornice of the ceiling; in this chapel is a monument for Elizabeth, younger daughter of Sir Edmund Pye, and her huſband, the Hon. Charles Weſt, who died without iſſue. The advowſon of the rectory has been always attached to the manor. Catherine Lady Pye left lands for the purpoſe of educating poor children of this and ſome other pariſhes in Buckinghamſhire.

BRADWELL, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles to the eaſt of Stony-Stratford. The manor was given in 1165, by King Henry II. to the family of Keynes, from whom it paſſed by female heirs to the Ayleſburys and Staffords: Sir Humphrey Stafford ſold it in 1570 to Michael Coles, who ſoon afterwards conveyed it to Roger Fuller. From Mr. Fuller's family it paſſed by marriage to that of Mercer, and is now the property of William Bailey eſq. who purchaſed it of the Mercers.

In the pariſh church is a monument for Sir Joſeph Alſton, of Bradwell Abbey, (in the adjoining pariſh of Wolverton,) who died in 1688: an ancient inſcription, between the nave and chancel, ſhews that the church was dedicated to St. Lawrence. The church of Bradwell was given, in 1275, to the priory of Tickford; the vicarage, which has been endowed with the great tithes, is now in the gift of the crown. This pariſh has been encloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1788: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

BRAYFIELD, or COLD-BRAYFIELD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Bedfordſhire, about three miles eaſt of Olney. The manor belonged anciently to the Bloſſomvilles, and afterwards to the Staffords. In Queen Elizabeth's reign it was in the Mordaunts; Henry Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough, ſold it about 1669 to the Boddingtons, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Dymocks. It was purchaſed of the latter by the Farrers, about the year 1714. William Farrer eſq. of Brayfield, who died in 1737, was many years chairman of the

[1] As deſcended from Sir William Noel, who married Margaret, elder daughter of the firſt Lord Lovelace, by Lady Anne Wentworth.

committee

committee of ways and means, in the Houſe of Commons. The manor of Brayfield is now the property of Farrer Grove Spurgeon Farrer eſq. ſon of the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, by a daughter of the late Mr. Farrer. Brayfield-houſe is at preſent in the occupation of R. Orlebar eſq.

Brayfield has a parochial chapel, dependant on the church of Lavendon: both pariſhes have been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1801, when allotments of land were aſſigned to Mr. F. G. S. Farrer, as impropriator of the great tithes, which belonged formerly to the priory of Harold. Gerard Noel eſq. nephew of the late Earl of Gainſborough, is patron of the donative of Brayfield.

Bow-Brickhill, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles nearly eaſt of Fenny-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Cauz, Fermband, and Stafford: about the year 1520, it belonged to the family of Watſon, from whom it paſſed, in 1626, to Sir Francis Brown; Sir William Boreman died ſeiſed of it in 1697; it has ſince paſſed through ſeveral hands, and is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, having been purchaſed by the late duke of Francis Moore eſq. in the year 1792.

The pariſh church ſtands in a very expoſed ſituation, at the edge of a ſteep hill, and is a very conſpicuous object, ſeen at the diſtance of many miles: there is no houſe near it; the village lies on the ſide of the hill, about a quarter of a mile lower down. The church was for many years ſuffered to go to decay, being reduced to a mere ſhell; during which time, divine ſervice was performed at a ſchool-houſe in the village, which was built by the Perrot family, and endowed by them in 1633. The church was repaired by Mr. Browne Willis the antiquary [m], in 1757, ſince which time divine ſervice has been performed in it as formerly. The advowſon of the rectory, which had till then been always annexed to the manor, was ſold to Sir William Aſhton, about the year 1630: Sir William Buck (deſcended by a female heir from the Aſhtons) was patron in 1757; the advowſon is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Dupré, of Great-Berkhamſted. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1790, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

Great-Brickhill, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles and a half to the ſouth-eaſt of Fenny-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the Beauchamps, from whom it paſſed by female heirs to the Baſſets and Greys. Richard Grey, Earl of Kent, ſold it in 1514 to Sir Charles Somerſet, of whoſe ſon,

[m] Cole's MSS. in the Britiſh Muſeum.

Sir George, it was purchaſed in 1549, by the Duncombes: from this family it paſſed, by female heirs, to the Bartons and Paunceforts, and is now the property of Philip Duncombe Pauncefort eſq.

The manor of Smewnes-Grange, in this pariſh, became the property of Woburn Abbey, in the year 1293. King Edward VI. granted it to Edward Stanton eſq. of whoſe deſcendant it was purchaſed in 1792, (under an act of parliament which had paſſed the preceding year,) by the preſent proprietor, Edward Hanmer eſq. of Stockgrove. This manor extends into the pariſh of Soulbury: the manor-houſe, which was built by Edward Stanton, the grantee, within a moated ſite near the Ouſel, has long been ſuffered to go to decay.

In the pariſh church are memorials of the families of Duncombe, Barton, Pauncefort, and Chaſe. The advowſon of the rectory is annexed to the manor. This pariſh was incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1776, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes, and an allotment to the poor in lieu of their right of cutting furze.

LITTLE-BRICKHILL, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, is nearly two miles diſtant from Fenny-Stratford, on the road from London to Liverpool. This village, although diſtinguiſhed by the name of Little, has been a place of much more conſequence, if not more populous, than Great-Brickhill; having been formerly a market, and an aſſize town. The market, which was on Thurſdays, ſeems to have been originally granted in 1228, to John de Gateſdon, confirmed in 1267, to Philip Lovel; in 1319, to Humphrey Lord Audley, and in 1441, to Humphrey Stafford, Earl of Buckingham. The charter of 1228 grants a fair for three days, at the feſtival of St. Mary Magdalen; that of 1267, a fair for three days, at the feſtival of St. Giles; that of 1319, a fair at the decollation of St. John the Baptiſt; and that of 1441, two fairs, one on the feſtival of St. Philip and St. James, the other on that of St. Luke: the only fair now held, is on the 18th of October. The aſſizes for the county appear to have been occaſionally held at this town, from an early period. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and King James I. Little-Brickhill ſeems to have been conſidered as the aſſize town, and is ſo called in Saxton's map, publiſhed in 1574. Between the years 1561 and 1620, the names of 42 executed criminals appear among the burials in the pariſh regiſter: the laſt time the aſſizes were held at Little-Brickhill was in 1638. The gallows is ſaid to have been on the heath, about three furlongs out of the town, on the road to Woburn. The market of Little-Brickhill has been long diſcontinued; it is probable that the town fell to decay on the aſſizes being removed: of late years, however, it has again increaſed in population. Browne Willis ſtates the number

of houſes, in 1758, to have been 69; their number in 1801, as returned to parliament, was 84, of which four were uninhabited, that of the inhabitants, 385. Little-Brickhill is ſtill a poſt town, being the ſtage between Woburn and Stony-Stratford.

The manor of Little-Brickhill was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, from whom it paſſed by female heirs to the Lovells, Audleys, and Staffords. Having been ſeized by the crown, in conſequence of an attainder, it was granted to Lord Marney, and afterwards to William Carey eſq. Mr. Carey's ſon ſold it to the Brocas family, from whom it paſſed by purchaſe to the Abdys, about the year 1636: Sir Anthony Abdy, about the year 1696, ſold it to Sir Charles Duncombe, in whoſe family it continued many years: it is now the property of George Henry Roſe eſq.

A chapel adjoining the pariſh church was blown down by the high wind in 1703. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the abbey of Combwell, in Kent, are now annexed to the ſee of Canterbury, under which Mr. Philip Mills is, or was lately, leſſee. The archbiſhop is patron of the benefice, which is a perpetual curacy. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1796, when allotments of land were aſſigned in lieu of tithes, and an allotment to the poor for fuel.

Brill, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about ſeven miles to the north-eaſt of Thame, in Oxfordſhire, and about twelve miles weſt of Ayleſbury. The manor was part of the ancient demeſnes of the crown, and it is ſaid with much apparent probability, that the Saxon kings had a palace here, which was a favourite reſidence of King Edward the confeſſor. It is certain that our monarchs had a palace at Brill for ſome time after the conqueſt: King Henry II. kept his court there in 1160, attended by Thomas a Becket as his chancellor; he was there again with his court in 1162[n]. King John, in 1203, gave the manor of Brill to his chaplain, Walter Borſtard, appointing him keeper of the royal palace there[o]. King Henry III. kept his court at Brill in 1224[p]: Hugh de Neville had livery of the manor in 1226. In 1233, Brill appears to have been the property of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, for we are told by Matthew Paris, that his lands and houſes there were at that time laid waſte by Richard Sward and other exiles[q]. In 1346, the manor of Brill was granted to Sir John Molins, from whom it deſcended by female heirs to the families of Hungerford and Haſtings; the Earl of Huntingdon ſold it in the year 1550, to Edmund Rede eſq. lord of

[n] Kennet's Parochial Antiquities. [o] Ibid. [p] Ibid. [q] Mat. Paris, p. 332.

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the manor of Borſtall, from whom it deſcended, together with that manor, to the preſent proprietor, Sir John Aubrey bart.

In the month of November 1642, the war having commenced between King Charles and his parliament, the king eſtabliſhed a garriſon at Brill, of which Sir Gilbert Gerard was made governor: not long after this, an attack was made on the garriſon, by a party of the parliamentary army, under the command of Hampden, the celebrated patriot, but they were repulſed with conſiderable loſs [r]. About the month of April 1643, after the capture of Reading, Brill was evacuated by the royal garriſon, which had been a great annoyance to the parliament, by its frequent excurſions to Aylesbury and its neighbourhood [s].

The great tithes of Brill, which had been appropriated to the convent of St. Frideſwide [t], in Oxford, are now veſted in Sir John Aubrey, who is patron of the perpetual curacy. Brill was formerly a chapel of eaſe to Oakley: it is now a ſeparate pariſh, but pays an acknowledgment of two ſhillings yearly to Oakley, as having been the mother-church. There was anciently an hermitage at Brill, dedicated to St. Werburgh: which was given by King Henry III. in 1252, with an endowment of land to the canons of Chetwode, on condition of their finding a chaplain to officiate in the chapel of the hermitage, and another to officiate in the chapel of the king's palace at Brill [u].

A fair at this place, which was granted to Sir John Molins in 1346, is ſtill held (though it ſcarcely deſerves the name of a fair) on the Wedneſday after Old Michaelmas-day.

Broughton, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies three miles from Newport-Pagnell, on the road to London. The manor was held under the heirs of Hugh de Bolebec, as early as the year 1200, by a family who took their name from the village. William Pawlet, Lord St. John, who married one of the coheireſſes of John Broughton eſq. ſold it in 1572 to the Duncombes, of whom it was purchaſed in 1746, by Barnabas Backwell eſq. It is now the property of his repreſentative, William Praed eſq.

In the pariſh church are memorials of the families of Broughton, Duncombe, and Cheſter. The advowſon of the rectory has always been annexed to the manor. A yearly payment was allotted to the rector in lieu of tithes, by an act of parliament which paſſed in 1748.

[r] Clarendon's Hiſtory of the Rebellion, 8vo. Edit. II. 166, and Heath's Chronicle. [s] Vicars's Parliamentary Chronicle. [t] The chapel of Brill, and the great tithes, were given to the monks of St. Frideſwide, both by King Stephen and the Empreſs Maud. —— Kennet. [u] Kennet.

BUCKINGHAM, which gives name to the county, as well as to the hundred and deanery in which it is ſituated, is about 57 miles diſtant from London: it is ſurrounded, excepting on the north, by the river Ouſe, over which it has three bridges. At a very early period this town became a place of much celebrity, as containing the bones of Rumbald, an infant ſaint, the ſon of a Saxon king, (born in the neighbouring village of Kings-Sutton,) who died three days old, and was canonized in an age of blind ſuperſtition. A ſhrine was erected at Buckingham, over his remains, which became the reſort of a great multitude of pilgrims, to the no ſmall advantage of the town. St. Rumbald's ſhrine was rebuilt with a ſum of money bequeathed for that purpoſe, by Richard Fowler, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaſter in 1477.

Ralph Higden ſays that the Danes made fortreſſes on both ſides of the Ouſe at Buckingham, in 913[x]; other authors, on the contrary, ſpeak of theſe fortreſſes as having been made by King Edward the elder, who remained with his army at Buckingham for four weeks, ſome ſay in 912, others in 915, and others in 918[y]. Browne Willis, in his hiſtory of Buckingham, ſays (but on the authority of what ancient hiſtorian does not appear) that the Danes committed great outrages at Buckingham in 941, and that in 1010, after having plundered the neighbourhood, they poſſeſſed themſelves of the town as a place of great ſtrength.

In the month of June 1644, Buckingham was for a few days the head quarters of King Charles I. the neighbouring towns of Ayleſbury and Newport-Pagnell being at the ſame time garriſoned for the parliament[z]. Sir William Waller was at Buckingham with his army after the fight at Cropredy-Bridge[a]. Fairfax marched thither after his repulſe at Borſtall-Houſe in May 1645[b].

Buckingham ſuffered greatly by a fire, which broke out on the 15th of March 1725, and conſumed 138 dwelling-houſes, being more than one third of the whole town: the damage was computed at 40,000l.

It is ſuppoſed from the circumſtance of King Edward III. having fixed one of the ſtaples for wool at Buckingham, that it was in his reign a flouriſhing town. It is certain that upon the removal of the ſtaples to Calais, this was one of the towns for whoſe relief (as having fallen to decay) an act of parliament was obtained in 1535. Buckingham was nevertheleſs conſidered as the county town; there is evidence that the public gaol was there in 1545, and Browne Willis ſuppoſes it to have been on the ſite of the old caſtle: it is probable that the aſſizes had been generally held at Buckingham, before Lord Chief Juſtice Baldwin procured them

[x] Gale's Hiſt. Ang. Scrip. III. 261. [y] Bromton, and Saxon Chron. See the Introduction. [z] Clarendon's Hiſtory of the Rebellion, 8vo. edit. II. 496, and Walker's Hiſtorical Diſcourſes, p. 28. [a] Lord Clarendon II. 501. [b] Ibid. II. 655.

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to be removed to Aylesbury, although it appears that they were occasionally held at Little-Brickhill, so early as the 15th century. In 1758, Lord Cobham procured an act of parliament to fix the summer assizes at Buckingham, and built a gaol there at his own expence for the use of the town and county; the Town-hall had been built many years before, (about the year 1685,) at the expence of Sir Ralph Verney: it is a large brick building, at the top of which is a gilt swan, the cognizance of the town.

Buckingham is an ancient borough, and is described as such at the time of the Norman Survey, in which it is said to have had 26 burgesses, all under the protection of foreign lords. It does not appear, nevertheless, that the town sent members to parliament before the year 1544: the right of election is in the bailiff and burgesses. Browne Willis, the antiquary, was chosen one of the representatives for this borough in 1705, and Dr. Radcliffe, the celebrated physician, in 1713.

The town of Buckingham was governed in the reign of Edward III. by a mayor and two bailiffs, in that of Henry VIII. by a bailiff and burgesses, but they were not incorporated till the year 1553, when Queen Mary, as a reward for their steady adherence to her in the Duke of Northumberland's rebellion, granted them a charter of incorporation by the style of bailiff, principal burgesses, and steward. King Charles II. gave them a new charter, changing the style of the corporation to that of mayor, aldermen, and steward. This charter had been acted upon only four years, when the old establishment was revived, and the corporation still continue to act under their former charter. There are four incorporated companies in Buckingham, the Mercers, Tanners, Butchers, and Merchant-Taylors: such as are made freemen of the town must be members of one of these companies.

Buckingham has had a large market on Saturdays, from time immemorial: the charter does not appear on record. There are now ten fairs, Jan. 12th and 30th, March 6th, May 6th, Thursday in Whitsun-week, July 10, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Saturday after Oct. 11, and Nov. 8.—It appears by Mr. Willis's account, that there were 387 houses in the town of Buckingham, when the fire happened there in 1725. According to the returns made to parliament under the population act in 1801, there were then only 229 houses (of which four were uninhabited) in the town, exclusive of 97 in Prebend-end, and 217 in the hamlets of Boreton, Boreton-hold, Gawcot, and Lenborough. The total number of inhabitants in the parish was 2605; of these, 1180 were males, 1425 females; 194 were employed chiefly in agriculture, and 313 in trade, manufactures, or handicraft.

The manor of Buckingham was anciently in the noble family of Giffard. Walter Giffard, the second Earl of Buckingham, died without issue in 1164, when his lands being divided among his sisters' heirs, this manor passed successively to the

families of Clare and Breoſe: it is ſuppoſed to have been ſold before the year 1323, to Hugh Audley, whoſe daughter brought it in marriage to the Stafford: Humphrey Stafford was created Duke of Buckingham in 1445. The manor of Buckingham having been forfeited by attainder in 1460, was granted to Richard Fowler, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaſter; in 1485 it was reſtored to the Staffords. It was again forfeited in 1521, when Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was beheaded on Tower-hill: after this, the manor of Buckingham was granted ſucceſſively to Lord Marney, and to the Careys: Henry Carey, Lord Hunſdon, ſold it in 1553, to the Brocas family, by whom, in 1574, Browne Willis tells us that it was granted on leaſe (together with the tolls of the markets and fairs) for a term of 999 years, to the corporation of the town, ſubject to a quit-rent of forty ſhillings[c], now paid to the Marquis of Buckingham, who is conſidered as the Lord Paramount.

It is ſuppoſed that the caſtle, which occupied the ſite of the preſent church, was anciently a ſeat of the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham. Camden obſerves that the great banks of the caſtle, of which there were ſcarcely any other remains, divided the town almoſt in half: a part of the county gaol which ſtood on its ſite remained in Browne Willis's time, divided into tenements for poor people. In 1670 a bowling-green was made on the caſtle-hill, much reſorted to by the gentlemen of the county. Mr. Willis ſays, that the polls for knights of the ſhire was taken on this hill, and he had heard that the aſſizes were formerly held there in booths put up for the purpoſe. All traces of the caſtle and its banks are now deſtroyed, the ground having been levelled when the church was built.

The manor of *Boreton* or *Bourton*, a hamlet of Buckingham, was held, with the manor of Buckingham, by the Giffards, and paſſed with it to the family of Brocas, of whom it is ſuppoſed to have been purchaſed by Ferdinando Poulton, an eminent lawyer, well known as editor of a book of ſtatutes. Mr. Poulton reſided many years in a capital manſion, which had been a ſeat of the families of Frome, Barton, Fowler, Lambard, and More: his ſon conveyed Bourton to Sir Richard Minſhull, who ſuffered great perſecution for his loyalty in the civil war, his eſtates being ſequeſtered, and his houſe plundered of valuables to the amount of 2000l. Sir Richard's ſon diſſipated the greater part of what remained of his father's fortune, and died in the king's bench; this manor was ſold to the Verney family: Andrew

[c] See his Hiſtory of Buckingham. In his Notitia Parliamentaria, he ſays that the manor of Buckingham was granted in fee to Babington, and by him ſold to Sir Peter Temple, under whoſe family it has ſince been held on leaſe by the corporation. We learn by inquiry, that the other account is the more correct, but that the term of the leaſe granted to the corporation, was 2000, inſtead of 999 years.

Douglas esq. the present proprietor, purchased it a few years ago of the trustees of the late Earl Verney.

The manor of *Lethenborough* or *Lenborough*, another hamlet belonging to this parish, passed with the manor of Buckingham till the attainder of the unfortunate Edward Stafford, in 1521, after which it continued in the crown till the early part of the following century. About the year 1611, it became the property of the Dormers: in 1704 it was sold to Mr. Rogers, who in 1718 conveyed it to Edward Gibbon esq. of Putney, in Surrey, grandfather of the historian, of whose family it was purchased by the late Bridger Goodrich esq. and is now vested in his trustees.

Lenborough house, in 1445, became a seat of the Ingoldsbys, an ancient Lincolnshire family. John Ingoldsby of this place was made one of the Barons of the Exchequer in 1463. Sir Richard Ingoldsby, about the year 1617, inclosed the park at Lenborough; his son, Sir Richard, married Oliver Cromwell's aunt, by whom he had a numerous family, all born at Lenborough-House. Their history is very remarkable; Francis the eldest son represented the town of Buckingham in parliament, during the protectorate of his cousins, Oliver and Richard. After the restoration he was well received at court, and his name inserted in the list of intended knights of the royal oak. His estate which was then valued at 1000l. *per annum* he soon dissipated, disparked the ground which his grandfather had inclosed, sold Lenborough House to Mr. Robinson, his steward, and died a pensioner in the Charter-House. Richard, the second son, was an officer of much note and trust in the parliamentary army. He was one of the commissioners of the High Court of Justice for the trial of his sovereign, signed the warrant for his execution, was one of the chief confidants of his cousin Oliver, governor of Oxford Castle, and one of the lords of the upper house. When he found the cause of his cousin Richard desperate, he strenuously exerted himself in promoting the restoration of the exiled monarch, and so effectually recommended himself to his favour, that he not only procured his pardon, being the only one of the regicides who had a free pardon, but was made a Knight of the Bath. He died in 1685, and was buried at Hartwell, near Aylesbury. Sir Oliver Ingoldsby, the next brother, who was also a distinguished officer in the parliamentary army, was slain at Pendennis Castle. John, the next brother, had the command of a regiment in the parliamentary army. Henry, the fifth son, who was also of rank in the army, rendered great services to his relations, the Cromwells, and, like his brother Richard, was equally zealous in paving the way for future favour with the exiled monarch, whose restoration he foresaw; with this view he hastened from Ireland, where he had a command, took possession of Windsor Castle, then in the hands of the republicans, and garrisoned it for the parliament, who appeared to be favourably disposed towards the restoration of monarchy. For this service he was created a baronet in 1661, being described as of Lethen-

borough (or Lenborough,) then the ſeat of his elder brother Francis. He had been advanced to the ſame rank by his couſin Oliver, not long before his death in 1658. Sir Henry Ingoldſby died in 1701, being one of the oldeſt officers in the ſervice. The title is extinct. There were three other brothers, who are all ſuppoſed to have been in the parliamentary army, in which one of them is known to have loſt his life. Lenborough-Houſe, the ſeat of the Ingoldſbys, was ſold by the Robinſons to Mr. Rogers, who conveyed it with the manor to Edward Gibbon eſq. A great part of it has been pulled down, the remainder is fitted up as a farm-houſe.

A capital manſion in the town of Buckingham, called Fowlers and Lambards, was the ſeat of John Barton, who in the reigns of Richard II. and Henry IV. was one of the knights of the ſhire. It came by marriage to the Fowlers, a family of conſiderable property and conſequence in the 15th and 16th centuries. At this houſe, Edward Fowler, in 1514, entertained Henry the Eighth's firſt Queen, Catharine of Arragon, who received there the joyful news of the defeat of the Scottiſh army at Flodden-field: in 1592 this houſe paſſed by purchaſe to the Lambards: in 1644, being then in the occupation of Sir Edward Richardſon, it was for a few days the reſidence of King Charles the firſt: the room in which he lay is ſtill called the king's chamber. A female heir of the Lambards brought this houſe in marriage to Sir Edward Bagot: it afterwards paſſed by purchaſe to the Rogers family. In Browne Willis's time the judges always lodged in it on their circuit: it is now the property and reſidence of Mr. Box.

The old church at Buckingham had a lofty ſpire, the height of which, from the ground, was 163 feet. It fell down on the 7th of February 1699: the tower which ſupported it remained till 1776, when that alſo fell down juſt after Mr. Pennant had quitted the church, which was not long afterwards wholly taken down and rebuilt on another ſite. The old church had on its ſouth ſide a ſmall chapel, dedicated to St. Rumbald, and an aiſle built by the family of Fowler, in the reign of Edward IV. The chancel was built about the ſame time by John Ruding, Prebendary of Buckingham. On the north ſide was an aiſle, which was the burial place of the Poultons and Ingoldſbys, but had no monument of either family. There were ſome memorials in the church for the Cliffords of Frampton, in Glouceſterſhire.

Browne Willis, in his Hiſtory of Buckingham, laments that the church ſtill remained deſtitute of its ſpire, which had been the glory and ornament of the town and county. In his account of Stowe, he again laments that the beautiful grounds belonging to that manſion ſhould be deprived of one of their chief ornaments, the ſpire of Buckingham, and hints to the noble owner how much it would redound to his honour, ſhould he rebuild it, and how conſonant to his family motto, "*Templa quam dilecta.*" This motto is now appoſitely placed on the front

of

of the new church, to which the late Earl Temple was a conſiderable benefactor. This church, which was completed in 1780, is a handſome freeſtone building, and ſtands on an elevated ſpot, being the ſite of the old caſtle. The ſpire nearly equals in height that of the old church, (being 150 feet from the ground,) and is a very conſpicuous object to the ſurrounding country. Over the altar is a copy of the Transfiguration, by Raphael, given to the pariſh by the Marquis of Buckingham. There are no monuments in the new church.

In the ſurvey of Domeſday the church of Buckingham is ſaid to have belonged to Remigius, biſhop of Lincoln. Before the year 1445, Buckingham was a chapel of eaſe to the neighbouring church of King's-Sutton, in Northamptonſhire, the birth-place of St. Rumbald: it was then made an independant vicarage. The great tithes, together with the manor of Gawcot, a conſiderable hamlet in this pariſh, were appropriated to a prebend in the church of Lincoln, called the prebend of Sutton *cum* Buckingham. This prebend was ſurrendered to the crown in 1547, and made a lay fee: it was held under the crown, on grants for life, by the Duke of Somerſet and Sir John Maſon, and afterwards by others for terms of years. About the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, it was granted to Robert Johnſon: before 1612 it became the property of the Denton family. The manor now belongs to their repreſentative Mrs. Coke, (widow of the late Wenman Coke eſq. of Holkham,) who is patroneſs of the vicarage; the great tithes have been ſeparated from the manor, and are for the moſt part the property of the Marquis of Buckingham. The vicarage is exempt from the archdeacon's juriſdiction, but ſubject to that of the biſhop of Lincoln. The hamlet of *Gawcot* had formerly a chapel dedicated to St. Andrew; in Browne Willis's time it contained 100 houſes, which is nearly the preſent number. The hamlets of Gawcot and Prebend-end have been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1801, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriators, and to the vicar, in lieu of tithes, and an allotment to the poor for furze.

There was a gild or brotherhood in the town of Buckingham, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, which poſſeſſed lands of conſiderable value, and a chantry-chapel, founded by Matthew Stratton, archdeacon of Buckingham, (who died in 1268,) and dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt and Thomas à Becket. This chapel was repaired in the reign of Edward IV. by John Ruding, archdeacon of Lincoln and prebendary of Buckingham; the pews which were then erected ſtill remain, and the door of the original ſtructure, which is of Saxon architecture: it has long been converted into a free-ſchool, ſaid to have been founded by King Edward VI. and endowed with a ſtipend of 10l. 8s. 0¾d. *per annum*, payable out of the exchequer; the maſter's houſe having been burnt down, was rebuilt at the expence of Alexander Denton eſq. in 1696.

Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1597, founded an alms-houſe at Buckingham for ſeven poor women, called Chriſt's Hoſpital, ſuppoſed to have been built on the ſite of an ancient hoſpital, dedicated to St. Lawrence, which exiſted as early as the year 1312. It is but ſlenderly endowed, chiefly by the benefaction of Mr. Harris, who gave the profits of the Wool-market and Wool-hall, and two fairs. John Barton, in 1431, founded a hoſpital for ſix poor perſons, to each of whom he gave a groat a-week to pray for his ſoul. This alms-houſe or hoſpital ſeems to have been again given to the poor, with the ſame endowment, by Mrs. Dayrell in 1583: it was probably ſeized by the crown, as having been appropriated to ſuperſtitious purpoſes, and came into the Dayrell family either by grant or purchaſe: it is ſtill called Barton's hoſpital.

The Preſbyterians, Unitarians, Quakers, and Methodiſts, have chapels or meeting-houſes at Buckingham.

BUCKLAND, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, has a parochial chapel, ſubject to the church of Bierton; it lies about five miles and a half eaſt of Ayleſbury, near the road to Tring. The manor was anciently in the families of Clifford and Leybourne; from the latter it paſſed by a female heir to the Deſpenſers. Richard Neville, the great Earl of Warwick, died ſeiſed of it in 1469; it afterwards came to the crown. The Dormer family became poſſeſſed of it by purchaſe or grant, in the 16th century; from them it paſſed by marriage to the Stanhopes, and is now the property of the Earl of Cheſterfield. The great tithes are appropriated to the dean and chapter of Lincoln.

BURNHAM, which gives name to a hundred and deanery, lies about three miles north-eaſt of Maidenhead, and about a mile to the north of the road from London to Bath and Oxford. The pariſh is divided into five diſtricts, called liberties, namely, thoſe of Brightwell, Cippenham, Boveney, Wood, and Eaſt-Burnham.

Burnham had formerly a market on Thurſdays, granted to the abbeſs of Burnham in 1271, together with a fair on the feſtival of St. Matthew: the market has been long diſuſed; there are now three fairs, Feb. 23, May 1, and Oct. 2. The great road to Bath and Oxford formerly paſſed through Burnham; upon the building of Maidenhead bridge it was diverted to its preſent courſe, in conſequence of which it is probable that this place fell to decay, and loſt its market, which was transferred to Maidenhead. Cookham, on the other ſide the river, near which the old road paſſed, had alſo a market, which declined probably about the ſame time.

Richard, King of the Romans, in the year 1265, founded an abbey of Benedictine Nuns at Burnham, which was endowed with the manors of Burnham,

Cippenham, Stoke, Bulſtrode, and ſome ſmaller eſtates. When diſſolved in the reign of King Henry VIII. its revenues were valued at 51l. 2s. 4½d. clear annual income; the ſite was then granted to William Tyldeſley, but ſoon reverted to the crown. In 1574, Abbeſs-Park at Burnham was granted to Paul Wentworth eſq. of Burnham-Abbey, then leſſee under the crown. In the reign of Charles I. Sir Henry Fane procured a leaſe of Burnham-Abbey, which was afterwards in the family of Darrell and Lovelace; Lord Lovelace ſold it to the Villiers family, who renewed with the crown in 1691; the leaſe is now veſted in the Earl of Jerſey. The ſite of the abbey, of which there are very ſmall remains, is above a mile from the village of Burnham, a little to the ſouth of the Bath road. The arms of the abbey were Or, on a chief Arg. three lozenges, Gules.

When the Domeſday ſurvey was taken, the manor of Burnham belonged to Walter Fitz-Other, anceſtor of the Windſor family. Being in the crown in the reign of Henry III. that monarch gave it, with all its rights and privileges, to the abbeſs and convent. At ſome period ſubſequent to the diſſolution of monaſteries, it ſeems to have been united to the manor of Huntercombe, in this pariſh, the preſent proprietor of which, Mr. Sayer, gives a deputation for the manor of Burnham, *alias* Huntercombe, which claims juriſdiction over the greater part of the pariſh including Weſt-towne and Boveney. Theſe are ſpoken of in ſome deeds of the reign of Henry VII. as ſeparate manors then belonging to Sir Reginald Bray. Boveney was at a later period in the Paules of Bray-wick. Sir Ch. H. Palmer ſeems to claim ſome juriſdiction over Boveney, by giving a deputation for his adjoining manor of Dorney, by the name of Dorney *cum* Boveney.

The manor of Huntercombe, formerly the property and ſeat of an ancient family of that name, at a later period was ſucceſſively in the families of Windſor, Darrell, and Evelyn. William Evelyn, in the early part of the laſt century, ſold Huntercombe to Anthony Collins and Thomas Eyre eſq. Mr. Eyre, by a ſubſequent purchaſe, became poſſeſſed of the whole. In 1777, on the death of Thomas Eyre eſq. the laſt heir male, this eſtate, and the manor of Allards, *alias* Eaſt-Burnham, which had been the property and ſeat of the Eyres for more than 400 years, devolved by his bequeſt to his nephew Henry Sayer eſq. who is the preſent proprietor. Huntercombe-Houſe was a few years ago in the occupation of Sir William Young bart. and ſince of the late Sir Booth Gore bart.: it is at preſent unoccupied.

The manor of Cippenham in this pariſh was part of the ancient demeſnes of the crown, and is ſaid to have been a palace of the Mercian Kings: it is certain there was a royal palace at Cippenham, ſo lately as the reign of Henry III. who occaſionally reſided there, as appears by the foundation charter of Burnham abbey, which is dated thence: it is probable that an ancient moated ſite near Cippenham was the ſpot where the palace ſtood. Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, who died in

1300, was ſeiſed of the manor of Cippenham, which in 1330 was granted to John of Eltham. About this period it ſeems that there were two manors in Cippenham, one of which was given to Burnham abbey, the other was granted in 1339 to Sir John Molins [a], and paſſed by female heirs to the families of Hungerford and Haſtings: it is probable that they were united after the diſſolution of the abbey. The manor of Cippenham, which had long been in the family of Goodwyn of Wooburn, was purchaſed by the Ducheſs of Marlborough about the year 1742, and having paſſed by her bequeſt to her grandſon John Spencer, was ſold by his repreſentative, the preſent Earl Spencer, to the late Mr. Dupré: it is now the property of his ſon, James Dupré eſq. of Wilton-Park.

The late learned Jacob Bryant eſq. had a ſeat at Cippenham.

In *Boveney* liberty is a chapel of eaſe, a very ancient ſtructure. An act of parliament paſſed in 1737, for making it a diſtinct cure, but the want of a ſufficient endowment prevented it from taking effect.

Brightwell-Court, in Burnham, belonged formerly to the family of Cage, from whom it paſſed by marriage to John Haſtings eſq. of Woodlands. This John Haſtings, who died in 1656, was ſon and heir of Sir George Haſtings, ſon of Henry, a younger ſon of George, the fourth Earl of Huntingdon; there is a wooden tablet to his memory in Burnham church, which has the arms of Haſtings, with 100 quarterings, over which are placed the arms of Cage, on an eſcutcheon of pretence. Brightwell-Court was for ſome time the ſeat of the accompliſhed Charles Earl of Orrery, who purchaſed it of Mr. Reeve, an eminent lawyer of Windſor: it has ſince been ſucceſſively the ſeat of Crayle Crayle eſq. Lady Ravenſworth, John Symmons eſq. and Lord Grenville. It is now the property and reſidence of the Hon. Mr. Irby, eldeſt ſon of Lord Boſton.

In the pariſh church at Burnham is a handſome monument of the late Mr. Juſtice Willes, with a medallion, in which he is repreſented in his robes: there is a tablet alſo for his ſon, Edward Willes eſq. and memorials of the families of Eyre, Evelyn, Hawtrey, and Sumner.

The advowſon of the vicarage of Burnham was given to Eton College, by Mr. Hawtrey, a fellow of that ſociety, in whoſe family it had been a conſiderable time. The vicarage is endowed with a part of the great tithes, the remainder are in lay hands: they were formerly appropriated to the abbeſs and convent of Burnham. Mr. Cole, the Cambridge antiquary, was vicar of this pariſh from 1774 till his death in 1780.

Robert Aldrich, biſhop of Carliſle, was a native of Burnham.

[a] Pat. 13 Edw. III.

CALVERTON,

CALVERTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies a mile to the ſouth of Stony-Stratford. The manor paſſed by marriage from the Bulbecs to the noble families of Vere, Neville, and Percy. Henry, Earl of Northumberland, ſold it about the year 1616 to Sir Thomas Bennet, from whoſe family it paſſed by a female heir to an anceſtor of the Marquis of Saliſbury, who is the preſent proprietor and patron of the rectory. The weſt ſide of Stony-Stratford, which was formerly in the pariſh of Calverton, has been made a ſeparate pariſh by act of parliament. The pariſh of Calverton, and the weſt ſide of Stony-Stratford, were incloſed in 1782, when an allotment of land was aſſigned in lieu of tithes.

CASTLETHORPE, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles to the north of Stony-Stratford, on the borders of Northamptonſhire. At this place was the ancient caſtle of the barony of Hanſlape, taken and demoliſhed in 1217, by Foulkes de Brent, when it was garriſoned againſt the king by its owner William Mauduit, one of the rebellious barons. It is moſt probable that it was never rebuilt: the ſite exhibits traces of very extenſive buildings. The manor of Caſtlethorpe paſſed as an appendage of Hanſlape, from the Mauduits to the Beauchamps and Nevilles, and eventually merged in the crown. In the reign of Charles II. it was granted to Sir Thomas Tyrrell, one of the juſtices of the Common Pleas, whoſe ſon procured an act of parliament in 1704, to enable him to ſell this manor and other eſtates for the payment of his debts. Some years afterwards it was purchaſed either of the Tyrrells, or of ſome perſon to whom it had been ſold under the above-mentioned act, by Sarah Ducheſs of Marlborough. It is now the property of Earl Spencer, whoſe grandfather became poſſeſſed of it under the will of the ducheſs. In the parochial chapel of Caſtlethorpe, which is an appendage of Hanſlape, is a handſome monument in memory of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, above mentioned, who died in 1671. The pariſh of Caſtlethorpe has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1793, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the corporation of Lincoln, as impropriators of the great tithes.

CAVERSFIELD, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about two miles from Biceſter, in Oxfordſhire, wholly ſurrounded by that county. The manor of this place having been ſeized by King Henry II. in conſequence of its owner, Brien Fitz-Count, having entered into a religious order, was granted to Robert Gargate, whoſe family gave a part of it to the prior and convent of Biceſter, partly under whom, and partly in their own right, it ſeems to have been held for many generations by the Langſtons. After the diſſolution of monaſteries they became poſſeſſed of the whole, which paſſed by a female heir to the Moyles, and afterwards

afterwards by ſucceſſive purchaſes to the families of Davenport and Bard. Mr. Vaux, an attorney, bought it of the Bards in 1704, and it is ſuppoſed to have been purchaſed of him about the year 1741, by Sir James Harrington. In 1751 Sir James ſold it to Mr. Southcote, of whom it was purchaſed in 1763, by the preſent proprietor, Joſeph Bullock eſq. who reſides in the manor-houſe.

In the church are ſome memorials of the families of Langſton, Moyle, and Bard. The great tithes were formerly appropriated to Miſſenden abbey. Mr. Bullock is patron of the benefice. A part of Stratton-Audley is in the county of Buckingham, and in this pariſh; the remainder, with the church, is in Oxfordſhire. The pariſh of Caversfield has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1780, under which an allotment of land was given to the incumbent in lieu of the tithes of four yard-lands and a quarter, to which he was entitled, and an allotment to the dean and chapter of Chriſt-Church, as being poſſeſſed of the remainder of the tithes.

Chalfont-St. Giles, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies nearly four miles from Amerſham, on the road to London, and ſeven miles from Uxbridge, in Middleſex. The principal manor in this pariſh is called the Vache, from a family of that name, who poſſeſſed it in the reign of Edward I.; it had been before in the Fitz-Alans[a]. A female heir brought it to the noble family of Grey, of Wilton: from them it paſſed by purchaſe to the Gardiners, and from the Gardiners to Thomas Fleetwood, treaſurer of the mint, who died in 1570. Mr. Noble, in his memoirs of the Cromwell family, ſays, that this Mr. Fleetwood had 32 children by two wives; ſuppoſing the number to be accurate, the writer is miſtaken in ſuppoſing that James Fleetwood, who died biſhop of Worceſter in 1683, was one of them; the biſhop was *grandſon* of Thomas Fleetwood, being a ſon of Sir George Fleetwood, who ſucceeded his father at the Vache, which continued in the family for more than a century. Francis Hare, biſhop of Chicheſter, having married the heireſs of the Claytons, who were the next proprietors, became poſſeſſed of the Vache, where he died in the year 1740, and was buried in the church of Chalfont-St. Giles. The late Admiral Sir Hugh Palliſer purchaſed the Vache of Biſhop Hare's repreſentatives, in or about the year 1771, and made it his ſeat. In 1773 he was created a baronet: on his death, which happened in 1796, the title deſcended to his great nephew, Hugh Palliſer Walter, now Sir Hugh Palliſer Palliſer bart. The Vache is under the admiral's will, the property of his natural ſon George Palliſer eſq.

[a] The manor of Chalfont-St. Giles was reſtored to John Fitz-Alan, by Pat. 51 Hen. III.

The

The baronial family of Wolverton had a manor in this pariſh, which paſſed by a female heir to the Wakes, in the reign of Edward III.[b]

During the great plague in 1665, Milton retired to Chalfont, where he finiſhed his admirable poem of Paradiſe Loſt. The idea of his Paradiſe Regained, is ſaid to have been ſuggeſted by a converſation which paſſed at this place, between the poet and his friend Elwood, a quaker. The houſe in which Milton reſided is now occupied by a farmer: it was built by ſome of the Fleetwood family, as appears from their arms over the door.

In the pariſh church are ſome monuments of the Fleetwoods and Claytons, and that of the late Sir Hugh Palliſer, who lies there buried: there is no memorial for biſhop Hare. The biſhop of Lincoln is patron of the rectory, the advowſon of which belonged formerly to the priory of Bradwell. Sir Hugh Palliſer founded a ſchool at this place for the education of 20 boys and 20 girls, and endowed it with 30l. *per annum*.

CHALFONT-ST. PETER, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies about five miles from Amerſham, on the road to London, and nearly ſix miles from Uxbridge in Middleſex. The manor, which belonged to Miſſenden abbey, was granted in 1536 to Robert Drury eſq. whoſe deſcendants ſold it in 1626 to the Bulſtrodes: in 1646 it was conveyed to Thomas Gower eſq. of whom, in 1650, it was purchaſed by Mr. Richard Whitchurch, anceſtor of Mrs. Anne Whitchurch, the preſent proprietor.

An ancient manor in this pariſh takes its name from the family of Brudenell, (collateral anceſtors of the Earl of Cardigan,) who formerly poſſeſſed it; from them it deſcended by female heirs to the Drurys and Oſbornes. It afterwards came into the Duke of Portland's family, of whom it was purchaſed by Charles Churchill, eſq. the late proprietor: it is now the property of Thomas Hibbert eſq. Mr. Hibbert's ſeat, which is called Chalfont-houſe, was a diſtinct property; and before it came into Mr. Churchill's hands, was in the families of Wilkins and Selman.

Newlands, in this pariſh, the ſeat of Sir Henry Thomas Gott, was purchaſed by its preſent poſſeſſor about the year 1770, of Mr. Croke of Beaconsfield: it had been formerly in the family of Saunders, and was ſold by Sir John Saunders to Mr. Hopkins, of whom it was purchaſed by Mr. Croke.

In the church are memorials for the family of Whitchurch. The advowſon and impropriation which belonged formerly to Miſſenden abbey, and afterwards to the Drurys, was given by Sir Thomas Allen to the preſident and ſcholars of St. John's college, in Oxford, who preſent the vicar and grant him a leaſe of the great tithes.

[b] See Placit. &c. in Turr. Lond. Co. Bucks. No. 16.

The

The Earl of Portland built a ſchool at Gerrard's Croſs, in this pariſh, adjoining the road from London to High-Wycombe. It has no endowment, but has always been ſupported by the Portland family: the duke appoints the maſter, and allows him a ſalary for teaching a number of boys of this and ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes.

William Courtnay, who died in 1770, gave a loaf of bread weekly to each of eleven unmarried poor women of this pariſh, and one to the clerk.

CHEDDINGTON, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about eight miles north-eaſt of Ayleſbury, and about two miles from Ivinghoe. In the reign of Edward I. the manor was in the Lucys, afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Brocas and Combe: by the latter it was ſold to the Hudſons, from whom it paſſed by inheritance to the preſent proprietor, Mrs. Mary Seare. The Earl of Bridgwater is patron of the rectory.

CHERSLEY, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about ſeven miles ſouth-weſt of Ayleſbury, and nearly four miles from Thame, in Oxfordſhire. This is ſuppoſed by ſome authors to have been the *Cerdiceſleah* of the Saxon Chronicle, where Cerdic and Cynric defeated the Britons.

The manor of Cherſley was anciently in the noble family of Valence, Earl of Pembroke; and afterwards in the Hampdens: Edmund Hampden forfeited it by attainder in 1465. Before the year 1600, either by grant or purchaſe, it became the property of the Dormers, from whom it deſcended to the preſent proprietor, Sir Clement Cotterell Dormer. Sir Clement is patron alſo of the donative, and impropriator of the great tithes, which formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Nutley, having been given to them by their founder, Walter Giffard. The church was anciently a chapel to Crendon: right of ſepulture at Cherſley was granted by the biſhop of Lincoln in 1458. An act for the incloſure of this pariſh paſſed in 1805, when an allotment was made to the impropriator in lieu of tithes.

CHESHAM, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, is about 29 miles from London: it has had a market on Wedneſdays from time immemorial: the fairs are, April 21, July 22, and Sept. 28.

A manufacture of coarſe wooden ware is carried on in this town, to a conſiderable extent; a great number of hands are employed in making ſhoes for the London warehouſes; the female poor are for the moſt part lace-makers. The town of Cheſham, according to the returns made to parliament, under the population act in 1801, contained 370 houſes, and 1910 inhabitants; of theſe 887 were ſtated to be males, and 1023 females; 49 perſons only appear to have been employed chiefly in agriculture, and 656 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft.

The manor of Great-Cheſham was parcel of the barony of Bulbec, and paſſed by a female heir to the Veres. The Earl of Oxford ſold it, about the year 1550, to the Seymours: it was afterwards in the family of Sandys, from whom it paſſed by purchaſe to that of Cavendiſh. The preſent proprietor of this manor, to which the manors of Cheſham-Higham and Cheſham-Bury ſeem to have been annexed from an early period, is the Right Hon. Lord George Cavendiſh, only brother of the Duke of Devonſhire, who has a ſeat in this pariſh at Latimers[a].

The manor of Grove, in this pariſh, was for many generations in the family of Cheyne. After ſome intermediate alienations, it was purchaſed in 1704 by Wm. Lowndes eſq. ſecretary to the treaſury, and is now the property of his deſcendant of the ſame name. Mr. Lowndes has alſo the manor of Hundridge in this pariſh. The ſite of the manor-houſe of Grove lies about half-way between Berkhampſted and Cheſham. The Cheynes had anciently a ſeat there, which appears to have been a place of conſiderable ſtrength: part of the great hall was remaining in 1750; there was a chapel adjoining the houſe. Mr. Lowndes, the purchaſer of this eſtate, built a houſe adjoining the church-yard at Cheſham, now the ſeat of his deſcendant above-mentioned.

The pariſh church is a large Gothic ſtructure: in the chancel are ſeveral monuments of the family of Skottowe, among which is one from an elegant deſign by Bacon, for Nicholas Skottowe eſq. who died in 1798. In the ſouth aiſle is the monument of Sir John Cavendiſh K. B. (a younger ſon of the firſt Earl of Devonſhire) who died without iſſue in 1618, and that of Mary, the firſt wife of Sir Francis Whichcote bart.

The impropriation of the great tithes was formerly divided between the monaſteries of Leiceſter and Woburn, each of which appointed a vicar. The rectorial manor of Cheſham-Woburn, with the advowſon of one mediety of the vicarage, was granted to the Ruſſel family in 1553. The late Duke of Bedford ſold the manor to the Rev. Mr. Hubbard, but retained the advowſon. The tithes of moſt of the eſtates within the manor have been purchaſed by the ſeveral proprietors. The two medieties of the vicarage were conſolidated by act of parliament in the year 1767: the Duke of Bedford being the patron of both, built the preſent vicarage houſe, and pulled down the two houſes which had belonged to the portioniſts. The rectorial manor of Cheſham-Leiceſter, together with the advowſon of a mediety of the vicarage, belonged in the year 1609 to the family of Aſhfield, who ſold it to the Whichcotes about the year 1650. The rectory-houſe near the church-yard was for ſome time one of the reſidences of that family, whoſe chief ſeat is in Lincolnſhire. About the year 1730, they ſold this eſtate to the Skottowes, excepting the advowſon

[a] See the next page.

which was purchaſed by the Duke of Bedford. This manor has lately been ſold piece-meal; the tithes were for the moſt part purchaſed by the proprietors of the ſeveral eſtates, and the rectory-houſe by Mr. Lowndes.

Thomas Wedon, who died in 1624, founded an alms-houſe in this pariſh for four poor perſons, and endowed it with 35l. *per annum*.

*Hundridge*, where was formerly a chapel of eaſe, *Chartridge* and *Aſhridge*, *Aſhley-Green* and *Billingdon*, *Botley*, *Water-ſide* and *Latimers*, are hamlets of this pariſh. Theſe hamlets contained, in 1801, according to the returns then made to parliament under the population act, 424 houſes, 23 of which were uninhabited. The number of inhabitants was 2059, which, added to thoſe in the town of Cheſham, makes the total number of inhabitants in the pariſh amount to 3967, and that of houſes to 803; it being nearly as populous as the pariſh of High-Wycombe, and, excepting that, the moſt populous in the county.

The ancient name of *Latimers* was Iſenhampſted or Iſelhampſted. It ſeems to have been formerly conſidered as a diſtinct pariſh. The benefice, which has been ſometimes called a rectory, but which is more properly a donative endowed with tithes, is diſtinct from Cheſham, being in the patronage of the Cavendiſh family; but as the births and burials are all regiſtered at Cheſham, and it is aſſeſſed jointly to the poor-rate and other parochial taxes, it can now only be conſidered as a hamlet of that pariſh. King Edward III. in the year 1324, granted the manor of Iſelhampſted, which had belonged to Hugh Le Deſpencer[b], to Sir Simon de Bereford, and two years afterwards to William Latimer[c], from whoſe family it derived its preſent name, being called Iſelhampſted or Iſenhampſted-Latimers, to diſtinguiſh it from the neighbouring village of Iſenhampſted-Cheynies. From the Latimers this manor paſſed to the Grevilles, who ſold it to Sir Edwin Sandys. Heſter, the daughter of Miles Sandys eſq. who was born at Latimers and baptized at Cheſham in 1569, is the lady celebrated by Fuller in his Worthies, as the parent ſtock of a poſterity of ſeven hundred perſons, whom ſhe lived to ſee deſcended from her to the fourth generation: her own children were thirteen in number. The author aſſures us that he ſpeaks within compaſs, having bought the truth by a wager which he loſt on the ſubject. This lady married Sir Thomas Temple of Stowe, and died in 1656, at the age of 87. From the family of Sandys, Latimers paſſed by purchaſe to that of Cavendiſh. When King Charles I. was carried about in triumph by the parliamentary army, he was brought for a few days to Latimers, which was then inhabited by Chriſtian, Counteſs of Devonſhire, and her ſon the earl. It may be ſuppoſed that the captive monarch experienced all the attention which his illuſtrious rank and

[b] Pat. 2 Edw. III. [c] Pat. 4 Edw. III.

misfortunes claimed, from that celebrated lady, whoſe zeal and loyalty on a ſubſequent occaſion expoſed her life to hazard. Latimers is now the property and ſeat of the Right Hon. Lord George Auguſtus Henry Cavendiſh.

In the chapel belonging to this hamlet, which is ſituated near the manſion, is the monument of a young actreſs, of the name of Campion (put up by George Duke of Devonſhire) with the following inſcription;—on one ſide: "*Requieſcit hic pars mortalis Mæ. Cn. Obiit* 19 *Maii Ao.* 1706, *Ætatis* 19: *quod ſupereſt ex alterâ parte quære.*"—On the other ſide.—"*Formam egregiam & miris illecebris ornatam virtutes animi ſuperârunt: plebeium genus ſed honeſtum nobilitate morum decoravit. Suprâ ætatem ſagax; ſuprâ ſortem præſertim egenis benigna; inter ſcenicos ludos in quibus aliquandiu verſata eſt, verecunda et intemerata. Poſt quatuor menſium languorem a febri hecticâ correpta intempeſtivam mortem forti pectore et Chriſtianâ pietate ſubivit. Humanitate præditis ſi quid mentem mortalia tangunt flebilis, amicis heu flebilior: dilectiſſimis reliquiis ſacrum lapidem hunc poni curavit, G. D. D.*"

Chesham-Bois, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies nearly two miles ſouth of the town of Cheſham. The family of De Boſco or De Bois were poſſeſſed of the manor in the reign of King John. About the reign of Henry VII. it came into the Cheyne family, by the marriage of Sir Thomas Cheyne, of Cheynies and Drayton-Beauchamp, with Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir John Cheſham[d], who ſeems to have inherited in the female line from the family of De Bois. From this time it continued to be one of their principal ſeats, until the death of William Cheyne, Lord Viſcount Newhaven, without male iſſue in 1728: ſoon after this, it became the property of John Earl Gower, and was ſold by him, in 1735, to the Duke of Bedford, from whom it has deſcended to his grandſon, the preſent duke. In the pariſh church are ſome memorials for the family of Cheyne, and other perſons allied with it, among which is an altar-tomb (without inſcription), which has the inſignia of the Garter. The church was formerly a chapel of eaſe to Cheſham, but has ſince become parochial: the Duke of Bedford has the great tithes, and is patron of the donative.

Chetwode, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about five miles ſouth-weſt of the county town, on the borders of Oxfordſhire. Sir Ralph de Norwich founded a priory at Chetwode, in the year 1244, for Auguſtine monks. In 1460 it was diſſolved on account of its poverty, and annexed to the abbey of Nutley.

[d] Buckinghamſhire Viſitation in the Heralds' College.

The principal manor is the property of Sir John Chetwode bart. a lineal deſcendant of Robert de Thain, who held it under the biſhop of Baieux, at the time of the Norman ſurvey, ſince which it has never been alienated by ſale. It paſſed indeed for a time, by the heir female of an elder branch of the Chetwodes, to the baronial family of Woodhull or Wahul; but, after a few generations, reverted by the marriage of an heireſs of the Wahuls, to a younger branch of the Chetwodes, from whom the preſent baronet is deſcended: the Chetwodes had formerly a ſeat here, but it has long been deſerted, their chief reſidence being at Oakley in Staffordſhire.

The priory manor which belonged to Nutley abbey, after the diſſolution of the monaſtery of Chetwode, was granted in 1541 to the family of Riſley, who continued to poſſeſs it until the death of Paul Riſley eſq. without iſſue, in 1755: it is now in ſeveralties.

The old pariſh church of St. Martin, which ſtood a quarter of a mile eaſt of the priory, was pulled down in Queen Elizabeth's time: in this church was a monument of Sir John Chetwode, an anceſtor of the preſent baronet of that name, and his lady. The conventual church, which was made parochial in 1480, ſtill remains: in the chancel, which appears to be coeval with the foundation of the priory[e], are ſome memorials of the family of Riſley. There was anciently an hermitage at Chetwode, dedicated to St. Stephen and St. Lawrence, which was founded by an anceſtor of the Chetwodes.

Edward Lame eſq. William Pearſon eſq. and Mrs. Lynch, have the impropriation of the great tithes. The benefice of Chetwode and the neighbouring pariſh of Barton-Hartſhorne are conſolidated.

CHICHLEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles and a half north-eaſt of Newport-Pagnell. The manor of Chichley (probably the ſame which is ſpoken of in Dugdale's Monaſticon[f], by the name of the manor of Thickthorn, in Chichley and Hardmead) was given to the monaſtery of Tickford, by its founder Fulk Paganell. It was given by King Henry VIII. to Cardinal Wolſey, and by him made part of the endowment of his new College; but on his attainder it reverted to the crown, and was granted to Anthony Cave, from whoſe family it paſſed by a female heir to the Cheſters. Anthony Cheſter eſq. of Chichley, was created a baronet in 1619: his ſon Sir Anthony, the ſecond baronet, diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the royal army at the battle of Naſeby. His eſtates were ſequeſtered, and his houſe at Chichley ſuſtained much injury, when the neighbouring town of Newport-Pagnell was garriſoned by the parliament. The manor of Chichley is now the property of Charles Cheſter eſq. M. P. whoſe father Charles Bagot, next

[e] See p. 487. [f] I. 686.

brother

THE CHANCEL OF CHETWODE CHURCH, BUCKS.

brother to the late Lord Bagot, took the name of this family by act of parliament, in 1750: he ſucceeded to this eſtate on the death of his couſin, Sir Charles Bagot Cheſter, the laſt baronet, in 1755. Chichley-houſe is at preſent uninhabited.

The great tithes, which belonged to the priory of Tickford, are now the property of Mr. Cheſter, who is patron of the vicarage. Browne Willis ſuppoſes that Richard Weſton, Earl of Portland, Lord Treaſurer to King James I. was a native of Chichley, and that he was the ſame perſon, who, being then Richard Weſton eſq. was married in that church to Elizabeth Newdigate, in 1596.

CHILTON, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies nine miles weſt of Ayleſbury, and about four miles north of Thame, in Oxfordſhire. Paulinus Peyvre, the opulent ſteward of King Henry III's houſehold, had a ſeat at Chilton[s], and was poſſeſſed of the manor which continued ſome time in his family. Before 1550 it paſſed to the Crokes by purchaſe; from the family of Zouche: it was again alienated in or about 1682, and having been ſucceſſively in the families of Limbrey and Hervey, paſſed to the Carters, and is now, by marriage with the heireſs of that family, the property of Sir John Aubrey bart. whoſe ſeat is in the neighbouring pariſh of Dourton. Chilton-houſe, the ſeat of the late Mr. Carter, is unoccupied.

In the pariſh church are ſome monuments of the Crokes; that of Sir John Croke, who died in 1608, is much ornamented in the ſtyle which then prevailed, and has his effigies in armour. Sir John was father of Sir George Croke, the celebrated lawyer, famous for his zealous oppoſition to the tax of ſhip-money, in the reign of Charles I.: he was a native of Chilton, and lies buried in the church there, without any memorial. At the weſt end of the church is a large marble monument for the family of Carter: on the ſouth ſide of the entrance into the chancel was a ſtone deſk and pulpit; the deſk remains, with the ſteps which led to the pulpit.

The rectory, to which manerial rights were annexed, was given to Nutley abbey by its founder Walter Giffard: the impropriation is now veſted in Sir John Aubrey, who is patron of the donative.

At *Eaſington*, a conſiderable hamlet of this pariſh, was formerly a chapel of eaſe. The manor of Eaſington, which was for many generations in the noble family of Stafford, has of late years been annexed to Chilton.

CHOLESBURY or CHOULESBURY, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about five miles eaſt of Wendover, on the borders of Hertfordſhire.

[s] Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 242.

This

This manor, anciently called Chelwoldſbury, belonged in early times to the Beauchamps, and afterwards to the Perots[h]. In 1364, King Edward III. granted this manor, which had been held for life by John de Cobham, to Thomas Cheyne, his ſhield-bearer[i], whoſe deſcendants in the reign of Henry VIII. ſold it to Lord Chief Juſtice Baldwin: in 1748 it was purchaſed of the Seares, in whoſe family it had then been for a conſiderable time, by Robert Darell eſq. father of Edward Darell eſq. the preſent proprietor.

The church, which was formerly a chapel to Drayton-Beauchamp, ſtands within a circular moat, which incloſes an area of about twelve acres. Within this area is a pond, called the Bury pond. To the north of Choleſbury a large dyke runs from eaſt to weſt, over Wigginton Common, through the pariſh of Tring to Drayton-Beauchamp. The living is a perpetual curacy, endowed with the tithes of the pariſh, which are of very ſmall value: the patronage is veſted in the truſtees of Joſeph Neale eſq. who in 1705 founded an evening lecture for preaching, catechiſing, and expounding the Catechiſm at Choleſbury and Wigginton, endowing it with an eſtate at Cublington, let ſince the incloſure at 90l. *per annum.* By the founder's rules the lecturer is to preach at Choleſbury on Chriſtmas-day and the 5th of November, and to preach and catechiſe the children every Sunday afternoon during the winter ſeaſon; on the ſecond and fourth Sunday in every month, from Eaſter to Michaelmas, to preach, catechiſe, and expound the Catechiſm at Wigginton; and on the other Sundays during that period, to perform the ſame duties at Choleſbury. The curate of Choleſbury may be (and hitherto has been) appointed by the truſtees to the lectureſhip, but he is removeable from the lectureſhip by the truſtees for miſbehaviour, or neglecting the rules and orders of the founder. There are nine truſtees, which number is to be filled up from time to time when reduced to ſix.

EAST-CLAYDON, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about two miles and a half to the ſouth-weſt of Winſlow. In the reign of Edward III. the manor was in the Greys of Rotherfield, afterwards ſucceſſively in the Deincourts and Lovels, and at a later period in the families of Lea and Abell. It was purchaſed of the latter in 1728, by Lord Fermanagh, and is now the property of his niece, Mary Baroneſs Fermanagh. The manor of *Bottle-Claydon*, a hamlet of this pariſh, has paſſed with it.

The church of Eaſt-Claydon was demoliſhed during the civil war by Cornelius Holland, one of King Charles's judges: it was rebuilt after the reſtoration. In

[h] Bund. Placit. &c. in Turr. Lond. Co. Bucks, No. 3. [i] Pat. 38 Edw. III.

this

this church are ſome memorials of the families of Abel and Milward. The impropriation of the great tithes, which formerly belonged to the priory of Oſney, is veſted in Lady Fermanagh, who is patroneſs of the vicarage.

MIDDLE-CLAYDON, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies nearly two miles from Eaſt-Claydon, and about four miles ſouth-weſt of Winſlow. The manor was held under the Peverells, ſoon after the Norman conqueſt, by the family of Greſley, from whom it paſſed by female heirs to the Cantilupes and Zouches. Sir John Brockley, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1433, bought it of the Zouches: in 1458 it was ſold by him or his repreſentatives to Sir Ralph Verney, whoſe deſcendant of the ſame name was created a baronet in 1661. Sir Ralph's ſon was, in 1703, created an Iriſh viſcount, by the title of Fermanagh, and, in 1742, his grandſon was created Earl Verney. Theſe titles became extinct in 1791, by the death of the ſecond earl, whoſe niece, Mary Verney, was the next year created Baroneſs Fermanagh, and is the preſent proprietor of this manor.

Either Sir Ralph Verney who purchaſed Middle-Claydon, or his ſon Sir John, built a capital manſion there in the reign of Henry VII. which has ever ſince been the chief ſeat of the family, but having undergone many alterations, retains no veſtige of its ancient form. The more modern part was fitted up in a very magnificent manner, and furniſhed, with great expence, by the late Earl Verney. The furniture was ſold after his death, the ſtate rooms not being made uſe of by the preſent owner, who reſides during the greater part of the year at a villa in Kent. The ſaloon is forty-eight feet eight inches by thirty-two feet eight inches, and twenty-four feet three inches in height. The dining-room and drawing room are of the ſame length and height, but in width only twenty-ſeven feet ſix inches; theſe rooms ſtill contain a few portraits, among which is a fine picture of Sir Edmund Verney, by Vandyke. The grand ſtair-caſe is inlaid with various wood, and the iron railing is very richly wrought.

In the pariſh church are ſeveral memorials of the Verney family, the moſt remarkable is the monument of Sir Edmund Verney above-mentioned, who was ſtandard-bearer to King Charles I. and fell at the battle of Edgehill in 1642: it is ornamented with buſts of himſelf, his ſon, Sir Ralph Verney, and their wives. In the chancel, which was built by the Gyfford family in 1519, is a tomb, with braſſes, of Roger Gyfford, who died in 1542, and his wife ———. Lady Fermanagh is patroneſs of the rectory.

Sir Ralph Verney, the firſt baronet, who died in 1696, built an alms-houſe for ſix poor perſons: it has no endowment.

STEEPLE-

STEEPLE-CLAYDON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about a mile and a half from Middle-Claydon, and nearly ſix miles weſt of Winſlow. The manor was given by King Henry I. to Robert D'Oyley, as part of the marriage portion of his wife Edith, who had been the king's miſtreſs. About 100 years after this, it was in the family of Fitz-John, and paſſed by female heirs to the Cliffords, Burghs, and Mortimers. From Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, it deſcended to his grandſon, King Edward IV. and thus became veſted in the crown. In 1557 it was granted in fee to Sir Thomas Chaloner, a celebrated writer and ſoldier, who was knighted by the protector Somerſet, in Muſſelborough field, and the manor-houſe became one of the ſeats of that family. This eſtate was forfeited by the attainder of Thomas Chaloner, one of the judges of King Charles I. but repurchaſed of the grantee by the family. Sir John Verney bought it of William Chaloner eſq. in 1705: it is now the property of Lady Fermanagh. The manor-houſe has been pulled down, and its ſite is now occupied by a farm.

In the pariſh church is a memorial for Edward Chaloner eſq. thirty years a lieutenant in the navy, who died in 1766. He was grandſon of Thomas Chaloner the regicide, great grandſon of the learned Sir Thomas Chaloner, (tutor to Henry, Prince of Wales,) and great great-grandſon of Sir Thomas Chaloner, grantee of the manor as above-mentioned. Thomas Chaloner the regicide, in the year 1656, built a ſchool-houſe at Claydon, which ſtill remains, and endowed it with 12l. *per annum*: the endowment has been loſt, but Lady Fermanagh, who poſſeſſes the eſtates of the Chaloners, allows two ſhillings a-week to a ſchool-miſtreſs. The impropriate rectory, which was formerly parcel of the poſſeſſions of the priory of Oſeney, belongs to Lady Fermanagh, who is patroneſs of the vicarage. The pariſh of Steeple-Claydon has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1795, when a corn-rent was aſſigned to the vicar, and allotments of land to Lady Fermanagh, as impropriatrix; and to George Hardinge and Charles Webb eſq. for portions of tithes.

CLIFTON-REYNES, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about half a mile to the eaſt of Olney, acroſs the river, but the neareſt road to it from that town is about two miles and a half. This place took its name from the ancient family of Reynes, who poſſeſſed a manor in this pariſh, which paſſed by a female heir to the Lowes, and was ſold by them to the celebrated Serjeant Maynard. From the Maynards it paſſed by marriage to the noble family of Hobart, and was ſold about the year 1750, by the Earl of Buckinghamſhire, to Mr. Small, father of the preſent proprietor, Alexander Small eſq. who has a ſeat at Clifton-Reynes. Another manor, called alſo the manor of Clifton-Reynes, was from an early period in the noble

noble family of Mordaunt, and was ſold by the Earl of Peterborough in 1786, to John Higgins eſq. of Turvey in Bedfordſhire, who is the preſent proprietor. In the church are ſome ancient tombs of the families of Beauchamp, Zouche, and Reynes, the only one which has an inſcription, is that of Sir John Reynes, who died in 1428. Mr. Small is patron of the rectory.

NORTH-CRAWLEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles and a half to the weſt of Newport-Pagnell, on the borders of Bedfordſhire. At this place was an ancient monaſtery, dedicated to St. Firmin, which is mentioned in the Survey of Domeſday; it was deſtroyed or fell to decay ſo long before the general diſſolution of monaſteries, that no notice of it has been found in any records ſubſequent to the above-mentioned ſurvey. There are three manors in this pariſh, all of which are now the property of William Lowndes Stone eſq.[a] of Brightwell, in Oxfordſhire. The principal of theſe, called the manor of Great-Crawley, was held under the honor of Glouceſter, by the Filiols, and paſſed by female heirs to the families of Bohun, Owen, and Southwell. It was purchaſed of the latter in the reign of King Henry VIII. by Sir Robert Dormer, and of his deſcendants in 1704, by Francis Duncombe, who ſold it to William Lowndes eſq. in 1724. A ſecond manor (now called Broughtons) was in the family of Broughton from 1219 to 1529. It paſſed afterwards by ſucceſſive purchaſes to the families of Morton, Stanton, Knight, and Gregory: the heirs of Gregory ſold it to Mr. Lowndes. The Manor of Hellows belonged ſucceſſively to the Latimers and Nevilles, and was at a later period in the families of Apreece, Smith, and Duncombe: Mr. Lowndes purchaſed of the Duncombes.

The pariſh church is a ſpacious and handſome Gothic ſtructure, dedicated to St. Firmin, the patron of the ancient monaſtery at this place; the chancel was built by Peter de Guildford, rector of the pariſh, who died in 1321. Under the eaſt window on the outſide is the following inſcription:

"Petrus cancellum tibi dat Firmine novellum
Ut cum lauderis Deo, Petri memoreris."

In the chancel are ſome memorials of the family of Hacket; the rood-loft remains, between the nave and chancel: the ſcreen is of wood, richly carved and decorated with figures of ſaints, &c. under Gothic canopies.

[a] An act of parliament, paſſed in 1755, to enable William Lowndes eſq. to take the name of Stone, in addition to that of Lowndes.

The advowſon of the rectory, which was formerly in the families of Hacket and Carew, is now the property of Mr. Lowndes Stone. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1772, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes.

CRENDON or LONG-CRENDON, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about two miles north of Thame, in Oxfordſhire, and about nine miles ſouth-weſt of Ayleſbury: it is a populous village, nearly a mile in length, and had formerly a market on Thurſdays, granted in 1218 to William Earl Marſhall. The manor of Crendon was anciently the property of the Giffards Earls of Buckingham, who had a ſeat there; Crendon park is mentioned in the ſurvey of Domeſday. The manor paſſed by female deſcent to the noble families of Marſhall and Warren, and was afterwards divided into three parts, among their co-heirs: theſe became diſtinct manors. One of them having been in the family of Bohun, became veſted in the crown, and was given to the dean and chapter of Windſor in 1478: another became the property of All-Souls College, in Oxford: the third manor was in the Mortimers: Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, gave it in exchange for other lands, in the year 1357, to Sir William Ferrars[b], of the Groby family. At a later period it was in the Dormers, and is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham. In the pariſh church is a handſome monument of Sir John Dormer, lord of this manor, who died in 1626. The great tithes which were given to Nutley Abbey, in this pariſh, by its founder, Walter Giffard, are now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, who is patron of the donative.

Walter Giffard, the ſecond and laſt Earl of Buckingham of that family, in conjunction with his wife Ermengard, founded a convent of Auguſtine monks, in the year 1162, in his park at Crendon, to which he gave the name of Noctele, Nutley, or *de Parco* Crendon. The park was given by the founder to the monaſtery, which was dedicated to St. Mary and St. John the Baptiſt. William Marſhall gave the monks the privilege of the paſtoral ſtaff, which was confirmed by King John. The Bohuns had afterwards the patronage of Nutley Abbey, the revenues of which at the diſſolution were valued, according to Dugdale, at 437l. 6s. 8d½. *per annum*. Richard Ridge, the laſt abbot, had a penſion aſſigned him by the crown of 100l. *per annum* in lieu of his office. The ſite of the abbey was granted by King Edward VI. to Sir William Paget; it was afterwards for a conſiderable time in the family of Lenton, from whom it paſſed to the Berties. It is now, together with the manor of Nutley, the property of Mr. Reynolds, a farmer, who reſides in the

[b] Pat. 31 Edw. III.

remains

remains of the Abbey-houſe. A great part of the ruins, as repreſented in Buck's view, have been ſince taken down: the ancient roof of the hall, which was ſixty-eight feet by twenty-three feet nine inches, was removed by the Bertie family, to Cheſterton in Oxfordſhire, its place having been ſupplied by a common tiled roof; this room is now uſed as a barn. On the inſide of the eaſt wall is a corbel-table in that ſtyle of architecture which prevailed in the reign of Henry III. richly ornamented with foliage. The ſmall remains of the cloiſters are now a pig-ſtye. Round the cornice of an ancient room in the farm-houſe, is the Stafford knot, ſeveral times repeated, with the following inſcription in black letter, "*En lui plaiſance.*"

CHRISTLOW or CRESTLOW, in the hundred of Cotſlow, lies not far from Whitchurch, about ſix miles north of Ayleſbury. The manor which belonged to the priory of St. John of Jeruſalem is now the property of Lord Clifford, of Ugbrook, and has been for a conſiderable time in his family. The pariſh church was demoliſhed in the civil war, by Cornelius Holland, one of King Charles's judges, and has never been rebuilt. There is now only one houſe in the pariſh.

CUBLINGTON, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about ſeven miles nearly to the north of Ayleſbury. The manor was ſucceſſively in the families of Cheyne, Deſpencer, Lucy, Corbet, Willoughby and Carter. It was purchaſed of the latter in 1664, by the Tourneys, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the preſent proprietor, Thomas Sheppard eſq.

In the church, which was removed to its preſent ſite in the year 1400, are ſome memorials of the Tourney family.

The patronage of the rectory belongs to Lincoln College, in Oxford. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in the year 1769, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes, glebe, &c.

CUDDINGTON, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about ſix miles nearly weſt of Ayleſbury. The manor was anciently annexed to the church of Rocheſter, but (by ſome exchange it is ſuppoſed) became veſted in the crown. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was conveyed by the Goodwyns to the Tyringhams; what became of it afterwards is not known. The late Lord Wenman claimed manerial rights in Cuddington, as annexed to the manor of Haddenham. James Holyman, the ſecond biſhop of Briſtol, who wrote boldly againſt the divorce of Catharine of Arragon, was a native of this place.

The parochial chapel of Cuddington is annexed to the Church of Haddenham: the great tithes are appropriated to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter. Browne

Willis ſpeaks of a medicinal ſpring near this village, formerly in great repute: it appears by the tradition of the inhabitants, that this is the ſpring from which a ſmall ſtream called Dadbrook takes its riſe; its virtues are ſtill talked of, but it has long been wholly diſuſed.

DATCHET, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies on the banks of the Thames, two miles from Eton. The manor of Datchet was granted by King Edward III. in 1335[c] to William de Montacute, who the ſame year conveyed it to Sir John Molins[d]." In 1558, the manor of Datchet was leaſed by the crown to Sir Maurice Berkeley, who made it his reſidence. In 1631, the manor of Datchet, deſcribed as having formerly been parcel of the poſſeſſions of the caſtle and honour of Windſor; and the manor of Datchet-St. Helens, which had belonged to the priory of St. Helens, and had been afterwards annexed to the honour of Windſor, were granted by King Charles I. to Sir Charles Harbord and others, by whom they were conveyed to Sir William Wheeler. In 1681, Andrew Pitcairne, *alias* Wheeler, conveyed this eſtate to Budd Waſe, whoſe daughter and heir married John Whitfield eſq. of Canterbury. It is now the property of the Ducheſs of Buccleugh, by inheritance from John Duke of Montagu, who in 1742 purchaſed it of two gentlemen, to whom it had been conveyed in 1730, by Mr. and Mrs. Whitfield.

In the pariſh church is the monument of Catharine, wife of Sir Maurice Berkeley, daughter of Lord Montjoy; that of Chriſtopher Barker, printer to Queen Elizabeth, who died in 1607, and ſeveral for the family of Wheeler.

The rectory and advowſon of the vicarage belonged anciently to the ſee of Lincoln: they were given by King Edward III. to the dean and chapter of Windſor. The bridge over the Thames at Datchet, originally built by Queen Anne, fell down in the year 1795, and has not ſince been rebuilt.

DENHAM, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies two miles from Uxbridge in Middleſex, near the road to High Wycombe. The manor was given to the abbot and convent of Weſtminſter in 1299[e]. After the reformation it was granted to the family of Peckham, who continued in poſſeſſion of it till after the death of Sir George Peckham, in 1586, when it was ſeized for a debt to the crown. In 1596, the manor, Denham-Court, Denham-Place, and the advowſon of the rectory, were all demiſed to William Bowyer eſq. to whom they were afterwards granted in fee. Sir Roger Hill, who was ſheriff of the county in 1673, purchaſed the manor, Denham-Place, and the advowſon, of the Bowyers; they are now by female deſcent the property of Benjamin Way eſq.

Denham Place, the ſeat of Mr. Way, is a large brick manſion, built by Sir

[c] Pat. 9 Edw. III. [d] Ibid. [e] Pat. 27 Edw. I.

Roger

Roger Hill, on the ſite of an old houſe belonging to the Peckhams. The chapel is fitted up with mantled wainſcot and carving, in the ſtyle which prevailed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The windows are ornamented with coats of arms in ſtained glaſs. In the library is a very curious picture of the houſe of commons, with portraits of the members. The dreſſes are of the age of Charles II. and it is probable that it repreſents the parliament of 1679, in which Sir Roger Hill was one of the members for Amerſham: William Williams was then ſpeaker.

Denham-Court continues in the Bowyer family; William Bowyer the grantee, afterwards Sir William Bowyer knt. was one of the tellers of the Exchequer; his grandſon, of the ſame name, was created a baronet in 1660. The preſent proprietor of Denham-Court is Sir George Bowyer, in whom two titles are united, for his father, the late gallant Admiral, who poſſeſſed Radley in Berkſhire by inheritance from the Stonhouſes, was created a baronet in 1794, in the life-time of his elder brother, the late Sir William Bowyer. The manor of Denham-Durdants, formerly the property of an ancient family of that name, who were ſettled at Denham from the year 1259, till 1414, or perhaps later, and afterwards belonging to the Savoy hoſpital, was given by King Edward VI. to the citizens of London, towards the endowment of St. Thomas's Hoſpital.

In the pariſh church are ſeveral monuments, both ancient and modern, among the former are ſome braſs plates of the Durdant family above-mentioned; that of Agnes Jordan, the laſt abbeſs of Syon; an altar tomb, in memory of Sir Edmund Peckham, who died in 1570 with the effigies of himſelf and his lady, and that of his ſon Sir Robert Peckham, privy counſellor to Queen Mary, who married one of the coheireſſes of the laſt Lord Bray, and died in 1569, being then on his travels, and was buried in the church of St. Gregory at Rome: his heart was depoſited at Denham, purſuant to his own requeſt. Among the more modern monuments is a ſeries of plain mural tablets, in memory of the Bowyer family, including the late baronet, who died in 1799. The earlieſt is that for Sir William Bowyer knt. grantee of the manor, who died in 1616. There are monuments alſo for the families of Hill, Lockey, and Way, connected by marriage.

Dinton, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about four miles ſouth-weſt of Ayleſbury, near the road to Thame. The manor was anciently in the Munchenſis. In 1464, having been forfeited by the attainder of Sir Robert Whittingham, it was granted to Sir John Montgomery and his heirs male[f]: it was afterwards in the Verneys. The Maynes became poſſeſſed of it,

[f] Pat. 4 Edw. IV.

and ſettled at Dinton about the year 1606: upon the attainder of Simon Mayne, one of the regicides, who died in priſon after conviction, and was buried at Dinton in 1661, this manor became forfeited, but was repoſſeſſed by the family probably through the indulgence of the crown, and was ſold in 1727, by Simon Mayne, grandſon of the regicide, to John Vanhattem eſq. father of the late Sir John Vanhattem, who died in 1789. His ſon-in-law, the Rev. William Goodall, is the preſent proprietor. The hamlets of *Weſtlington* and *Ford* are attached to this manor.

The manor-houſe, now the ſeat of Mr. Goodall, is an ancient manſion, which was for many years the reſidence of the Maynes. Mr. Goodall has ſeveral papers relating to the hiſtory of the pariſh; a collection of extraneous foſſils from Dinton and its neighbourhood, where they are found in great abundance; and ſome antiquities diſcovered in an arable field near the road to Thame, by labourers who were digging for the foundation of a caſtellated building erected by Sir John Vanhattem in 1769. The moſt remarkable is a ſmall veſſel of thin green glaſs, of a conical form, which is engraved in the 10th volume of the Archæologia. The manors of Aſton-Molins and Waldridge, in this pariſh, are in the hundred of Aſhendon, and the manor of Morton, in the hundred of Deſborough. The manor of Aſton-Molins, formerly called Aſton-Bernard, belonged anciently to the family of Fitz-Bernard, from whom it paſſed by purchaſe to the Blackets[s]. In 1331, Sir John Molins, who held this manor by grand ſerjeanty, as marſhal of the king's falcons, had a licence to embattle his houſe at Aſton-Molins: from him the manor paſſed by female heirs to the families of Hungerford and Haſtings. The family of Serjeant became poſſeſſed of it about the year 1606: it is now the property of Matthew Raper eſq. whoſe anceſtors purchaſed it of the Serjeants in 1720.

The manor of Waldridge belonged alſo to the Serjeants: it was afterwards the ſeat of Sir Richard Ingoldſby, who purchaſed it in 1651 of the Serjeants. It is ſomewhat ſingular, that Dinton ſhould have been the reſidence of two of the judges of King Charles I. Sir Richard Ingoldſby and Simon Mayne; the former was pardoned and taken into favour after the reſtoration. Waldridge is now the property of the Marquis of Wincheſter, who married the heireſs of the Ingoldſbys. The manor of Morton has been long held on leaſe by the Waller family, under the church of Wincheſter. The Lees of Hartwell, before their marriage with the heireſs of that eſtate, were of Morton, and it is probable that they were leſſees of the manor before the Wallers. The manor of Upton, in this pariſh, belonged to Lord Chief Juſtice Baldwin, and having paſſed by female heirs to the Borlaces and

[s] Pat. 6 Edw. II.

Wallops,

Wallops, is now the property of the Earl of Portſmouth. The manor of Blomer, in this pariſh, was formerly in the Hampdens, afterwards in the Claytons, and is now the property of the Earl of Cheſterfield.

In the pariſh church are monuments for the families of Serjeant, Mayne, and Vanhattem. The ſouth door has a very curious Norman arch[h].

The great tithes of this pariſh were formerly appropriated to the Priory of Godſtow: when the act for incloſing this pariſh paſſed in 1802, it appeared that the vicar was entitled to a portion of the great tithes, and that Matthew Raper eſq. the Rev. William Goodall, and George Franklin eſq. were entitled to the remainder, excepting thoſe of the hamlet of *Upton;* the great tithes were directed to be apportioned, and allotments of land made in lieu of them to the ſeveral proprietors; Mr. Serjeant's impropriate tithes were to remain unaltered, but he was at liberty to accept a corn-rent; the vicar had 40 acres allotted to him for his glebe, and a corn-rent in lieu of tithes: the vicarage is in the gift of the crown. *Ford,* a hamlet of this pariſh, had formerly a chapel of eaſe, which has been deſtroyed. There is an engraved portrait of John Bigg, an eccentric character, who was a native and inhabitant of this pariſh, and commonly called the Dinton Hermit. In his younger days he was clerk to Simon Mayne the regicide, who acted as a juſtice of the peace: for many years before his death, which happened in 1696, he lived in a cave under ground. His method of mending his clothes, which he never changed, was by faſtening freſh cloth or leather over the decayed parts: one of his ſhoes thus mended, till the leather became of more than tenfold thickneſs, is in Mr. Goodall's poſſeſſion, the other is in the Bodleian library at Oxford.

Dorney, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies two miles and a half nearly weſt of Eton. The manor was parcel of the poſſeſſions of Burnham abbey, and afterwards in the Garrard family. It is now the ſeat of Sir Charles Harcourt Palmer bart. His anceſtor, Sir James Palmer knt. gentleman of the Privy Chamber to King Charles I. married the daughter and heir of Sir William Garrard, who died in 1607. Sir Philip Palmer knt. ſon of Sir James, was cup-bearer to King Charles II. On the death of Sir Thomas Palmer bart. of Wingham, in Kent, which happened in 1725, without iſſue, Charles Palmer eſq. of Dorney, ſucceeded to the title. In the church is the monument of Sir William Garrard above-mentioned.

Sir C. H. Palmer is impropriator of the great tithes, which formerly belonged to Burnham abbey, and patron of the donative.

[h] See p. 487.

The learned biſhop Montagu was born at Dorney, about the year 1577, his father being then miniſter of the pariſh.

Dourton, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about ſix miles north of Thame, in Oxfordſhire. The manor was anciently in the Beauchamps of Hacche, afterwards in the family of Ferrars, of Groby. It was at a later period the property, and a ſeat of the Dormers. It is now the ſeat of Sir John Aubrey bart. who purchaſed the houſe and manor in 1774, of the Mitchells, who had been preceded by the Berties. A more conſiderable eſtate in this pariſh was purchaſed by Sir John Aubrey in 1783, of Sir Clement Cottrell Dormer. Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, gave the great tithes of this pariſh to Nutley abbey; they now belong to Chriſt-Church College in Oxford. The patronage of the donative, which is conſolidated with Aſhendon, is in the dean and chapter. Dourton was originally only a chapel of eaſe to Chilton; it is now parochial.

Drayton-Beauchamp, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about ſix miles eaſt of Ayleſbury, near the road to Tring. The manor was anciently in the Maignons, from whom it paſſed to the Beauchamps and Cobhams. Sir John Cobham gave it to King Edward III. who in the year 1364 granted it, together with the hamlet of *Helpſthorp*, to his ſhield-bearer Thomas Cheney, or Cheyne. Drayton continued to be one of the chief ſeats of his deſcendants, till the death of William Cheyne, Lord Viſcount Newhaven, in 1728. The manor of Drayton-Beauchamp was ſold by Lord Newhaven's repreſentatives to the Gumleys, about the year 1730, and is now the property of Lady Robert Manners: the manor-houſe has been pulled down.

In the pariſh church is a braſs of one of the Cheynes, who died in 1375, in armour, with a mail gorget, moſt probably Thomas Cheyne abovementioned. Browne Willis's notes ſpeak of another tomb, on which the figure of a woman only remained, with the date 1468, which tradition affirms to have been that of Sir John Cheyne. In the chancel is a ſumptuous monument of white marble, by Woodman, in memory of Lord Newhaven, with an upright figure of the deceaſed in a large flowing peruke; Lady Newhaven is repreſented ſitting. In the north window of the nave are eight of the apoſtles in ſtained glaſs.

The patronage of the rectory has been always annexed to the manor. Hooker, the celebrated eccleſiaſtical writer, was rector of Drayton-Beauchamp, in 1584. At *Helpſthorp*, a hamlet in this pariſh, was a chapel of eaſe, which has been deſtroyed.

Drayton-

DRAYTON-PASSELEW or PARSLOW, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about five miles nearly to the eaſt of Winſlow. In the reigns of King Henry the Firſt and Second, the manor belonged to the Paſſelews, from whom the pariſh takes its name, and afterwards to the monaſtery of Woburn. In 1562 it was granted to Sir John Forteſcue; on the death of his deſcendant, Sir Francis Forteſcue bart. in 1720, it paſſed by a female heir to the Whorwoods. It is now the property of Charles Greenwood eſq. whoſe father married the daughter and ſole heir of Thomas Whorwood eſq. who died in 1751. The advowſon of the rectory was held with the manor by the Forteſcues: it is now the property of the Rev. Dr. Lord, who is the preſent incumbent. This pariſh has been incloſed by act of parliament, in 1797, when an allotment of land was given in lieu of tithes to the rector.

DUNTON, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about eight miles north of Ayleſbury, and about four miles ſouth-eaſt of Winſlow. The manor was in the family of Girund, from the time of the conqueſt, till the reign of Edward II. The Hampdens became poſſeſſed of it about the year 1430. In or about the year 1729, Sarah, Ducheſs of Marlborough, purchaſed it of that family: by her bequeſt it devolved to her grandſon, John Spencer, grandfather of Earl Spencer, who is the preſent proprietor, and patron of the rectory.

EDGCOT, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about eight miles eaſt of Biceſter, in Oxfordſhire, and about eleven miles north-weſt of Ayleſbury. The manor was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham: as early as the reign of Henry III. it was in the Engleſields. Upon the attainder of Sir Francis Engleſield, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was granted to two perſons, who immediately conveyed it to the Dormer family. About the year 1716, John Dormer eſq. ſold it to the celebrated phyſician and poet, Sir Samuel Garth, whoſe daughter brought it in marriage to the Boyles. In 1795 it was purchaſed of their repreſentatives, by the preſent proprietor Joſeph Bullock eſq. of Caverſfield, who is patron of the rectory.

EDLESBOROUGH, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies on the borders of Bedfordſhire, under the Chiltern hills, near the ancient Ickneld-Street; about four miles and a half ſouth-weſt of Dunſtaple. The manor belonged in the reign of Henry III. to the Blounts, anceſtors of the Lords Montjoy: in the fourteenth century it was in the family of Bard. From the Dormers, who were poſſeſſed of it as early as the year 1616, it paſſed by a female heir to

the Stanhopes, and is now the property of the Earl of Chesterfield, who inherits also from the Dormers the manors of Dagnall and Hudnall, both in this parish. Hudnall had belonged to the neighbouring monastery of Ashridge; Dagnall had been in the Brocas family. George Whitfield esq. gives a deputation for the manor of Pinks, in Dagnall.

The manor of Horton, in this parish, was in the Brocas family, from the year 1400 to 1663, about which time it was sold to the Theeds: in 1716 it was purchased by the family of Hall, from whom it passed to the present proprietor, Christopher Johnson esq. The manor of Botelers passed, about the year 1350, by a female heir from the family whose name it bears, to the Ruffords; in 1610 it was in the Langford family, who were succeeded by the Kidgells and Brewsters: it is now the property of Mrs. Catherine Moyer, spinster, by inheritance from the family last mentioned. The manor of Bates, in Edlesborough, which had been long attached to that of the neighbouring parish of Eaton-Bray, in Bedfordshire [z], is the property of William Beckford esq. of Fonthill.

The manor of Cawdwells, in this parish, was granted to Sir William Paget, in 1544. It was afterwards successively in the families of Skipwith, Sankye, Pigott, and Bruges. In 1701 it was sold, together with the manors of Fitz-Hugh [a] and Bowells, which had been in the same families, to Mr. William Chew, of Dunstaple, who bequeathed them to trustees, for the support of a free-school in that town, and other charitable purposes. Another manor in Edlesborough was part of the estate of Thomas Chaucer esq. son of the poet, who married the heiress of the Burghersts. Alice Chaucer brought it in marriage to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk; his son, John Duke of Suffolk, gave it to the dean and chapter of Windsor, with the king's licence, in 1480.

The parish church of Edlesborough, a handsome Gothic structure, with a small spire, forms a conspicuous object, being placed on an insulated hill, which has the appearance of having been an ancient fortress. In the chancel are some brasses of a large size, among which is that of Sir John Swynshide, rector of Edlesborough, who died in 1390: in the north chancel or Rufford's aisle, are some tombs of the family of Rufford. The Earl of Bridgewater is patron of the vicarage, and impropriator of the great tithes, which belonged formerly to the monks of the Charter-house. The parish register records the burial of Michael Fenn, at the great age of 124, April 21, 1675.

[z] See the account of the proprietors of that manor, p. 79. Bates has been attached to the manor of Eaton-Bray, since the time of Sir Reginald Bray, and probably at a much earlier period.

[a] The manor of Fitz-Hugh was so called from a family of that name, who possessed it in the fourteenth century.

*Northall*,

*Northall*, *Dagnall*, *Horton*, and *Hudnall*, are hamlets of this pariſh: at Dagnall was a chantry chapel, dedicated to All Saints. Part of *Ringshall* is alſo in the pariſh of Edleſborough, and two houſes in *St. Margaret's*, a hamlet of Ivinghoe.

ELLESBOROUGH, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies under the Chiltern hills, about two miles and a half ſouth-weſt of Wendover.

The Pakington family claimed the paramount lordſhip of this pariſh, as having belonged to their anceſtor, Lord Chief Juſtice Baldwin, and before him, to the families of Cantilupe, Zouche, and De la Pole: this claim was given up when a farm in the pariſh was purchaſed of the Pakingtons in 1770, by the Ruſſel family, in the deſcription of whoſe property in this pariſh the manors of Zouches and Poles are enumerated.

The manor of Checkers, in Elleſborough, took its name from one of its ancient lords, John de Scaccariis, (or of the Exchequer,) from whoſe family it paſſed to the Hawtreys, and from the Hawtreys to a younger branch of the Crokes. John Thurbane, ſerjeant at law, became poſſeſſed of it in conſequence of his marriage with a co-heireſs of Sir Robert Croke. Joanna, the ſole heireſs of Serjeant Thurbane, married the gallant Col. Rivett, who received his death's wound at the battle of Malplaquet, after returning to the field from which he had before been carried off as dead. His widow married John Ruſſel eſq. third ſon of Sir William Ruſſel bart. great grandfather of Sir George Ruſſel the late proprietor of Checkers, whoſe grandfather, Mr. Charles Ruſſel, married Mary Joanna Cutts Rivett, the only child of his mother-in-law by her firſt huſband. The old manſion, called Checkers, ſituated in a very romantic ſpot, amidſt hills covered with beech and other trees, was built by the Hawtreys, whoſe arms are in the hall windows. In this houſe are ſome good family portraits, among which are Oliver Cromwell, from whom the Ruſſels were lineally deſcended [b], Lady Claypoole, and other perſons connected with the family. Sir George Ruſſel, the laſt heir male of the Ruſſels of Chippenham, in Cambridgeſhire, died on the 25th of April 1804; his eſtates devolved to his aunt, Mrs. Mary Ruſſel, with remainder to her couſin-german, the Rev. John Ruſſel Greenhill D. D. Checkers is now the property and ſeat of Robert Greenhill eſq. to whom it has been given up by his father and couſin. The manor of Grove or Seyton was ſucceſſively in the families of Egleton, Horton and Briſtow. It was the property of the late Sir George Ruſſel, whoſe brother purchaſed it of the Briſtows. The manor of Mordaunts at Bockmer-end in this pariſh, belonged alſo to the late Sir George Ruſſel. The reputed manor of Apſley in this pariſh, belonged to the Sheppards of Rolrich, in Oxfordſhire; it was afterwards in the

[b] Noble's Memoirs of the Cromwells.

Ledwells; John Mackaneſs eſq. barriſter at law, having parchaſed it of that family, has lately ſold it to James Humphreys eſq. of Lincoln's Inn.

In the pariſh church, which, like that of Edleſborough, ſtands on a ſmall inſulated eminence, reſembling an ancient fortreſs, are ſome monuments of the Crokes. In 1803 an act of parliament paſſed for the incloſure of this pariſh, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the rector, who was only entitled to a moiety of a conſiderable portion of the great tithes, and to Joſeph Wells gent. who had the impropriation of the other moiety: the remainder of the tithes belonged for the moſt part to the proprietors of the lands from which they iſſued; an allotment was made to truſtees for the poor; the Woodlands ſtill continue titheable. The Rev. Mr. Wells, brother of the impropriator, is patron and incumbent.

Many Roman coins have been found in this pariſh; the caſtle-hill has been ſpoken of elſewhere[c].

EMBERTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about four miles north of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Olney. The manor belonged ſucceſſively to the baronial families of Paganell and Somery, under whom it was held by the Olneys and Pakenhams. From the latter it paſſed by a female heir to the Tyringhams, of whom it was purchaſed, about the year 1670, by the Coppins of Market-Street, in Bedfordſhire. In 1727 the Coppins ſold it to John Gore eſq. from whom it paſſed by marriage to the family of Melliſh. It is now, by a late purchaſe, the property of William Praed eſq. repreſentative in the female line of its former proprietors, the Tyringhams: Mr. Praed is patron of the rectory. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1798, when an allotment of land was given to the rector in lieu of tithes; the pariſh was then eſtimated to contain 1300 acres.

ETON, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, is ſeparated from Windſor, in Berkſhire, by the river Thames, being 22 miles diſtant from London: it is chiefly noted for its college, founded by King Henry VI. in the year 1440, for a provoſt, ten prieſts, four clerks, ſix choriſters, twenty-five poor grammar-ſcholars, and twenty-five poor men. Henry Sever was the firſt provoſt; his ſucceſſor was William Waynfleet, founder of Magdalen College, in Oxford. This foundation was particularly excepted in the act for the diſſolution of colleges and chantries, in the reign of King Edward VI. Its eſtabliſhment, however, has been ſomewhat altered, and it conſiſts now of a provoſt, ſeven fellows, two ſchool-maſters, two conducts, ſeven clerks, ſeventy ſcholars, and ten choriſters, beſides inferior officers and ſervants.

[c] See p. 493.

vants. The annual election of ſcholars to King's College, in Cambridge, founded by the ſame monarch, takes place about the end of July, or the beginning of Auguſt, when twelve of the head boys are put on the roll to ſucceed at King's College, as vacancies happen. The average number of vacancies is about nine in two years: at 19 years of age the ſcholars are ſuperannuated. Eton College ſends two ſcholars to Merton College, in Oxford, where they are denominated poſt-maſters, and has a few exhibitions of 21 guineas each, for its ſuperannuated ſcholars, towards whoſe aſſiſtance Mr. Chamberlayne, a late fellow, has bequeathed an eſtate of 80l. *per annum* after the death of his widow. The ſcholars elected to King's College ſucceed to fellowſhips at three years ſtanding. The independant ſcholars at Eton, commonly called *Oppidans*, are very numerous, this ſchool having been long ranked among the firſt public ſeminaries in this or any other country. The average number of independant ſcholars, for ſome years paſt, has been from 300 to 350: when Dr. Barnard was maſter, under whom the ſchool was more flouriſhing perhaps than at any other period, the number at one time exceeded 520. To enumerate all the Etonians who have become eminent in the republic of letters, or have diſtinguiſhed themſelves as lawyers, ſtateſmen, or divines, would be no eaſy taſk. From Harwood's *Alumni Etonenſes*, which is confined to ſuch ſcholars as have been on the foundation, may be collected, among others, the names of biſhop Fleetwood, biſhop Pearſon, the learned John Hales, Dr. Stanhope, Sir Robert Walpole, and the late Earl Camden. Among ſuch celebrated characters as have received their education at Eton, but not on the foundation, more immediately occur to notice the names of Outred the mathematician, Boyle[d] the philoſopher, Waller the poet, the late Earl of Chatham, Horace, Earl of Orford, Gray, Weſt, and the late learned Jacob Bryant. A conſiderable number of the literary characters of the preſent day, as well as of thoſe who are highly diſtinguiſhed in public life, have received their education at this celebrated ſeminary of learning.

Before we diſmiſs the ſubject of Eton School, the ancient cuſtom of the proceſſion of the ſcholars *ad montem* may be thought not undeſerving of notice. This proceſſion is made every third year on Whit-Tueſday, to a *tumulus* near the Bath road, which has acquired the name of Salt-hill, by which alſo the neighbouring inns have been long known. The chief object of the celebrity is to collect money for *ſalt*, as the phraſe is, from all perſons preſent, and it is exacted even from paſſengers travelling the road. The ſcholars who collect the money are called ſalt-

[d] Boyle was offered the provoſtſhip, but declined accepting it; upon which Waller was actually appointed, but the chancellor refuſed to ſet his ſeal to the appointment, it being contrary to the Statutes (although there had been ſeveral precedents for it) that a layman ſhould hold the office.

bearers, and are dreſſed in rich ſilk habits. Tickets inſcribed with ſome motto[e], by way of paſs-word, are given to ſuch perſons as have already paid for *ſalt*, as a ſecurity from any further demands. This ceremony has been frequently honoured with the preſence of his majeſty and the royal family, whoſe liberal contributions, added to thoſe of many of the nobility and others, who have been educated at Eton, and purpoſely attend the meeting, have ſo far augmented the collections, that it has been known to amount to more than 800l. The ſum ſo collected is given to the ſenior ſcholar who is going off to Cambridge, for his ſupport at the univerſity. It would be in vain perhaps to endeavour to trace the origin of all the circumſtances of this ſingular cuſtom, particularly that of collecting money for *ſalt*, which has been in uſe from time immemorial. The proceſſion itſelf ſeems to have been coeval with the foundation of the college, and it has been conjectured with much probability, that it was that of the *bairn* or *boy*-biſhop[f]. We have been informed, that originally it took place on the 6th of December, the feſtival of St. Nicholas the patron of children; being the day on which it was cuſtomary at Saliſbury, and in other places where the ceremony was obſerved, to elect the *boy*-biſhop, from among the children belonging to the cathedral[g]. In the voluminous collections relating to antiquities bequeathed by Mr. Cole, (who was himſelf of Eton and King's College,) to the Britiſh Muſeum, is a note, in which it is aſſerted, that the ceremony of the *bairn*, or *boy*-biſhop, was to be obſerved by charter, and that Geffrey Blythe, biſhop of Litchfield, who died in 1530, bequeathed ſeveral ornaments to King's College and Eton, for the dreſs of the *bairn*-biſhop. From whence the induſtrious antiquary procured this information, which if correct would end all conjecture on the ſubject, does not appear. We cannot learn that there are any documents in ſupport of it at King's College or at Eton, and the prerogative court of Canterbury, as well as the regiſtries of the dioceſes of London, Cheſter, and Litchfield, where alone there is any probability of its being regiſtered, have been ſearched in vain for biſhop Blythe's will. Within the memory of perſons now living, it was a part of the ceremony at the *montem*, that a boy dreſſed in a clerical habit, with a wig, ſhould read prayers. The cuſtom of hunting a ram, by the Eton ſcholars, on Saturday in the election week, ſuppoſed to have been an ancient tenure, was aboliſhed by the late provoſt, Dr. Cooke.

Eton College conſiſts of two quadrangles. In the firſt is the ſchool, the chapel, and lodgings for the maſters and ſcholars. The other is occupied by the library,

[e] One of the moſt appropriate perhaps, was "*Mos pro lege.*" [f] This part of the ceremony has been ſuppoſed by ſome to have originated from an ancient practice among the friars of ſelling conſecrated ſalt. [g] This mock dignity laſted till Innocents day; during the intermediate time the boy performed various epiſcopal functions, and if it happened that he died before it was expired, he was buried with the ſame ceremonials which were uſed at the funeral of a biſhop.

the provoſt's lodgings, and the apartments of the fellows. The chapel, as far as relates to its external appearance, is a very handſome Gothic ſtructure; the inſide has none of that ornamental architecture, ſo much admired in King's College chapel at Cambridge, to which this has ſometimes been compared, but is quite plain, and has been much disfigured by ſome injudicious alterations, which were made in the beginning of the laſt century, when ſeveral of the old monuments were removed, and others concealed behind the wainſcot then placed at the eaſt end, by which alſo was hid a Gothic altarpiece, of ſtone, enriched with niches. The whole length of the chapel is 175 feet, including the ante-chapel, which is 62 feet in length. Among the eminent perſons who lie buried in this chapel, are Richard Lord Grey of Wilton, Henchman to King Henry VIII.; John Longland, biſhop of Lincoln, confeſſor to that monarch; Sir Henry Saville, the learned warden of Merton, and provoſt of this college, who founded the Savillian profeſſorſhips of aſtronomy and geometry at Oxford; Sir Henry Wotton, an eminent ambaſſador and ſtateſman, who was alſo provoſt of Eton; Francis Rowſe, a diſtinguiſhed writer among the puritans, and one of the lords of Cromwell's upper-houſe, who died provoſt of Eton in 1658; Dr. Alleſtree, provoſt of Eton, (an eminent royaliſt,) who built the new or upper ſchool, with the cloiſters beneath, at the expence of 1500l. and died in 1680; and Nathaniel Ingelo, who died in 1683. The monuments of ſome of the above-mentioned perſons are not now to be ſeen. Sir Henry Wotton's tomb has the following ſingular inſcription:

"Hic jacet hujus ſententiæ primus auctor—
Diſputandi pruritus ſit eccleſiarum ſcabies."
"Nomen alias quære."

Dr. Ingelo was author of a romance, called Bentevolio and Urania, which is alluded to in the following ſingular paſſage of his epitaph.—"*Cujus ſtylus, dum dramate pietatem ad Chriſti morem ſuaviter inſinuat, an ingenioſus an patheticus ſit magis, viciſſim acriter et diu contenditur; quâ lite nondum ſopitâ, feliciter quieſcit autor eruditus beatam præſtolans reſurrectionem, donec deciſionis dies ſupremus illuxerit.*" In the ante-chapel is a ſtatue of the founder, by Bacon, erected in 1786, the ſum of 600l. having been bequeathed for that purpoſe, by the Rev. Edward Betham, fellow of the college, who died in 1783; and a monument of the young earl of Waldegrave, who was drowned when at Eton ſchool in 1794. In the ſchool-yard is another ſtatue of the founder in bronze, erected at the expence of Provoſt Godolphin. In the cemetery belonging to the college is the tomb of the learned John Hales.

The

The library of Eton College contains a very large and valuable collection of books, having been from time to time enriched by munificent bequeſts, particularly by the library of Dr. Waddington, biſhop of Cheſter, conſiſting chiefly of divinity; that of Mr. Mann, maſter of the charter-houſe; that of Richard Topham eſq. formerly keeper of his Majeſty's records in the Tower, chiefly remarkable for its fine editions of the Claſſics; and that of the late Anthony Storer eſq. containing a great number of early printed and rare books, in various departments of literature, a fine ſet of Aldus's, and many ſcarce editions of the Claſſics, particularly a very rare copy of Macrobius, and a large collection of engraved portraits and other valuable prints, excluſive of what had been bound up at a great expence, with various hiſtorical and topographical works, which formed part of his library. Mr. Topham's collection compriſes alſo ſome very valuable engravings, drawings by the old maſters, medals, &c. Mr. Hetherington bequeathed the ſum of 500l. to the college, to be expended in books.

In the provoſt's lodgings are portraits of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Thomas Smith, a learned ſtateſman, who was provoſt of the college, Sir Robert Walpole, Provoſt Stewart, clerk of the cloſet to King Charles I. Sir Henry Saville, Sir Henry Wotton, Francis Rowſe, and ſeveral other provoſts of the college: here is alſo a picture, ſaid to be a portrait of Jane Shore.

In 1452, the college had a charter for a market on Wedneſdays, at Eton, with conſiderable privileges [h], but it has been long diſuſed. Two fairs were granted by the charter of 1444: one for the three days following Aſh-Wedneſday; the other for ſix days following the 13th of Auguſt. There is now only one fair held on Aſh-Wedneſday.

The manor of Eton was acquired by the college in the reign of Edward IV. of the Lovel family, who inherited it through female heirs from the families of Fitz-Other, Hodenge, Huntercombe, and Scudamore. The manor of Eton-Stockdales *cum* Cole-Norton, in this pariſh, was for ſeveral centuries in the Windſor family. During the laſt century it has been ſucceſſively in the families of Ballard, Waſſell, and Buckle, and is now the property of John Penn eſq. of Stoke-Park. The pariſh church of Eton, called in ancient records Eton-Gildables, having been ſuffered to fall to decay, the inhabitants are permitted to attend divine ſervice in the college chapel. The provoſt of Eton is always rector, and has archidiaconal juriſdiction within the pariſh. There is a chapel of eaſe in the town, ſerved by one of the conducts of the college: it was built for the uſe of the inhabitants, by William Hetherington, the munificent benefactor to the blind and poor of other deſcriptions, who had been one of the fellows of Eton.

[h] See Cart. 27-39 Hen. VI.

FARNHAM-

FARNHAM-ROYAL, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies about two miles north of Slough. The manor was, at the time of the Norman Survey, in the family of Verdon, afterwards Barons Fernival, and paſſed from them by female heirs to the Talbots, Earls of Shrewſbury. It was held by grand ſerjeanty by the ſervice of finding a glove for the king's right hand, on the day of his coronation, and ſupporting his right arm that day whilſt he held the ſceptre. In the year 1542, Francis Earl of Shrewſbury gave this manor to King Henry VIII. in exchange for other lands, reſerving to himſelf and his deſcendants, the honourable office juſt mentioned. King Charles I. ſold the manor of Farnham-Royal to certain citizens of London: after this it was many years in the family of Coke, deſcendants of the celebrated Sir Edward Coke, who reſided in the neighbouring pariſh of Stoke-Poges, and it is probable purchaſed this manor, which, about the year 1751[a], was ſold by Thomas Coke, Earl of Leiceſter, to the Godolphin family, and is now, by bequeſt of the late Lord Godolphin, the property of Lord Francis Godolphin Oſborne, ſecond ſon of the late Duke of Leeds.

In the pariſh church is a braſs plate, in memory of Euſtace Maſcall, clerk of the works to Cardinal Wolſey, at the building of St. Frediſwide[b], in Oxford, and for ſeventeen years chief clerk of accounts for all the buildings of King Henry VIII. within twenty miles of London. He died in 1567, being then *piſtell-reader* in Windſor-Caſtle. In this church lies buried Dr. Chandler, biſhop of Durham, without any memorial. The advowſon of the rectory was given by the crown to Eton College, about the year 1720. Mrs. Elizabeth Hetherington gave the ſum of 140l. towards the foundation of a charity-ſchool in this pariſh in 1777. David Salter, in 1664 gave 17l. *per annum* to buy loaves and white herrings for the poor, and two ſhillings for a pair of white kid gloves for the rector, on the firſt Sunday in Lent, as long as the world ſhould laſt.

*Sear-Green* and *Hedgerley-Dean*, are hamlets in this pariſh, maintaining their own poor. There are ſome large and deep entrenchments at Hedgerley Dean, from whence a ditch runs weſtward to Eaſt-Burnham. The tradition of the neighbourhood is, that a battle was fought here between the Danes and Saxons.

FAWLEY, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about three miles north of Henley, and about ſeven miles weſt of Great-Marlow. The manor was in the Sackvilles from the time of the Norman conqueſt till about the year 1400, after which it paſſed by female heirs, to

[a] The Coke family appointed game-keepers for this manor till 1751. Francis Godolphin was the firſt of that family who appointed a game-keeper in 1752. [b] Meaning Chriſt-Church College.

the families of Roke and Alford. From the latter it paſſed, either by deſcent or purchaſe, to Sir James Whitlock, an eminent lawyer, one of the juſtices of the Common Pleas, and father of the celebrated Sir Bulſtrode Whitlock, who filled ſome of the higheſt departments in the State, during the Protectorate of Cromwell, and is held in much eſteem for the accuracy and impartiality of his hiſtorical memoirs. Sir James Whitlock died at Fawley in 1632, and lies buried in the pariſh church, where there is a handſome monument to his memory. In 1642, Fawley Court, then the ſeat of Sir Bulſtrode Whitlock, was occupied by a large party of the king's troops, under the command of Sir John Byron: the ſoldiers, in ſpite of their commander's orders to abſtain from ſuch outrages, deſtroyed the furniture, books, title-deeds, and many valuable MSS. collected by Sir Bulſtrode and his father, rendering the houſe unfit for the future reſidence of its learned owner, who died at his ſeat in Wiltſhire in the year 1675, and was buried at Fawley on the 6th of Auguſt: there is no memorial for him in the church. His ſon ſold the manor of Fawley about the year 1680, to Col. William Freeman, who dying in 1708, bequeathed this eſtate to his nephew, John Cook, who aſſumed the name of Freeman, and was anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, Strickland Freeman eſq. who is alſo patron of the rectory. The manor-houſe, called Fawley-Court, which is ſituated at a diſtance from the village on the banks of the Thames, was built in 1684, after a deſign of Sir Chriſtopher Wren. In the gallery are ſome portraits of the families of Whitlock and Freeman.

An eſtate in this pariſh, now the property of Thomas Stonor eſq. of Stonor, in Oxfordſhire, has been in his family more than three centuries.

The pariſh church was repaired and fitted up in 1748, at the expence of John Freeman eſq. then lord of the manor. The pews, pulpit, altar, and font, were brought from the chapel at Canons, the magnificent ſeat of James, Duke of Chandos, which had been pulled down and ſold piece-meal the preceding year.

Fingest, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, was anciently called Tynhurſt or Tinghurſt: it lies about ſeven miles weſt of High-Wycombe, and about the ſame diſtance north-weſt of Marlow. The manor belonged anciently to the abbey of St. Alban's: by an agreement which took place in 1163, it was given up to the biſhops of Lincoln, who made uſe of the manor-houſe as their occaſional reſidence[c]: in 1547, biſhop Holbeach ſurrendered it, with other manors, to the crown. In 1549 it was granted to the Duke of Somerſet, who, two years afterwards, exchanged it, with the church of Wells, for an eſtate which had belonged to the prebend of Dulting-Court, in that cathedral, ſince which time this

[c] Langley's Hiſtory of the hundred of Deſborough.

manor

manor has been held on leaſe under the prebendary, who is patron of the rectory. The leaſe, which appears to have been many years in the family of Ferrers[d], and afterwards in that of Dorrell, is now veſted in Owen Williams eſq. M. P. of Temple-Houſe, in the pariſh of Biſham.

The tower of the pariſh church is ſquare and maſſy, with plain circular windows; the other parts of the ſtructure are of later date.

The manor, or manor-farm of Cadmore-end, belonged to the Tippings, and is now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton, of Woolley Park, in Berkſhire, in right of his wife Mary Anne, niece and heireſs of the late Bartholomew Tipping eſq.

FOXCOTE, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about two miles north-eaſt of Buckingham. The manor was anciently in the family of Girund, who, in 1198, conveyed it to the De la Hayes, from whom, (about the year 1350) it paſſed by a female heir to the Ayotes, and from them in like manner to the family of Purefoy. The Dentons became poſſeſſed of it about 1480: in 1544 they ſurrendered it to the king by a forced exchange: in 1557 it was granted to Thomas Smith, and within the courſe of a century, paſſed ſucceſſively to the families of Cleaver, Philips, and Hunt. In 1639, it was purchaſed by Edward Grenville eſq. who nearly rebuilt the manor-houſe, and made it his reſidence. On failure of iſſue, this manor devolved to the elder branch of the family, and is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, who is patron of the rectory. The manor-houſe is in the occupation of a farmer.

FULMERE, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies about ſix miles ſouth-eaſt of Beaconsfield, and about four miles weſt of Uxbridge, in Middleſex. The manor was purchaſed by Sir John Molins, of William de Montacute, in or before the year 1335[e]: at a later period it was in the Darells. The grand-children of Sir Marmaduke Darell, who died in 1631, having ſquandered away their patrimony, were obliged to ſell this manor to their ſervants, of whom it was purchaſed by Judge Jefferys. It is now the property of the Duke of Portland, whoſe anceſtor bought it of Mr. Dives, ſon-in-law of the judge, about the year 1706.

Fulmer Place, the ſeat of the Darells, has been long ago pulled down; its ſite is occupied by a modern villa, belonging to William Frogatt eſq. attorney-at-law.

[d] Thomas Ferrers, who died in 1646, is called on his tomb, lord of the manor. The ſame family appointed game-keepers for the manor ſo lately as 1737. [e] See Pat. 9 Edw. III.

Fulmer was made a ſeparate pariſh and rectory, in the reign of King Edward VI. being endowed with the great tithes by the dean and canons of Windſor[f], in whom the patronage is veſted; it was before only a chapel of eaſe to Datchet. The preſent pariſh church was built in the year 1610, at the expence of Sir Marmaduke Darell. It contains nothing remarkable, excepting a handſome monument for the founder, who is repreſented in gilt armour; his lady, who lies on his right ſide, is in a black hood. Sir Marmaduke Darell is ſtyled in his epitaph, ſervant to Queen Elizabeth in her wars by ſea and land, and cofferer to King James and King Charles I.

GOTHURST, or as it is now called, GAYHURST, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles from Newport-Pagnell, near the road to Northampton. The manor, at the time of the Norman Survey, was held under the biſhop of Baieux, by Robert de Nodariis, or Nowers, whoſe family not long afterwards became poſſeſſed of it in their own right. On the death of the laſt heir male in 1408, it paſſed by marriage to Sir Richard Neville, and from the Nevilles, by another female heir, to the family of Mulſo, about the middle of the ſixteenth century. The only daughter of William Mulſo, who died in 1601, married Sir Everard Digby, who forfeited his life for being concerned in that diabolical conſpiracy, the gunpowder plot. He guarded in ſome meaſure againſt the conſequences of failure and detection, by making over his eſtates in truſt for his infant ſon, by which means he ſecured them from confiſcation: this ſon, the celebrated Sir Kenelm Digby, was born at Gothurſt in 1603. John Digby, only ſurviving ſon of Sir Kenelm, left two daughters, married to John Conway and Richard Moſtyn eſqs. who having procured an act of parliament for that purpoſe, ſold Gothurſt, in 1704, to the ſon of Lord Keeper Wrighte. It is now the property and ſeat of Miſs Wrighte, only daughter and heir of the late George Wrighte eſq. The manor-houſe was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and has undergone little alteration as to its external appearance; the greater part of the inſide has been modernized. Some portraits of the Digby family ſtill remain here; among which is that of Sir Everard, and one inſcribed John Digby, which Mr. Pennant conjectures nevertheleſs to have been meant for Sir Kenelm in his younger days, but there ſeems no good reaſon for ſuppoſing why it ſhould not have been his ſon John Digby. In the hall are two bronze buſts of Venetia Lady Digby, wife of Sir Kenelm, much admired for their workmanſhip. There is a beautiful miniature of this lady, by Peter Oliver, at Strawberry-Hill, another of Sir Kenelm and his lady, in one piece, after Vandyke, and a ſingularly fine one of Lady Lucy, her mother, by Iſaac Oliver; which were

[f] Hiſtory of Windſor, p. 115.

purchaſed by the late Earl of Orford, of Mr. Watkin Williams, and had been found in the garret of an old houſe in Wales. At Gothurſt are alſo ſeveral portraits of the preſent proprietor's family, among which are Lord Keeper Wrighte and Sir Joſeph Jekyl, Maſter of the Rolls. The pariſh church, in which was an ancient French inſcription for one of the family of Nowers, was pulled down in 1725: the preſent building was completed in 1728, with a ſum of money bequeathed for that purpoſe, by Mr. Wrighte, who purchaſed the manor. In the church are whole length figures in white marble, of the Lord Keeper in his robes, and his ſon, George Wrighte eſq. clerk of the crown, in his official dreſs. An act of Parliament paſſed in the year 1712, for aſcertaining the glebe, tithes, and profits of the rectory: in 1736 it was conſolidated with Stoke-Goldington: Miſs Wrighte is patroneſs.

GRANBOROUGH, in the hundred of Aſhendon, lies two miles to the ſouth of Winſlow. The manor belonged formerly to the abbey of St. Alban's, it is now the property of William Selby eſq. whoſe anceſtor, Mr. Lowndes, became poſſeſſed of it about the beginning of the laſt, or the end of the preceding century. The church, which was originally a chapel to Winſlow, was pulled down during the civil war, by Cornelius Holland the regicide: it was rebuilt after the reſtoration of King Charles II. The great tithes of this pariſh, which is within the dioceſe of London and archdeaconry of St. Alban's, were formerly appropriated to the abbot and convent of St. Alban's; when the pariſh was incloſed, under an act of Parliament paſſed in 1796, it appeared that Lady Fermanagh was entitled to a portion of the great tithes, and the Rev. Mr. Milward to another portion, as vicar of Eaſt-Claydon: an allotment of land was aſſigned to Lady Fermanagh, and corn-rents to the vicars of Granborough and Eaſt-Claydon. The vicarage of Granborough is in the gift of the crown.

GRENDON-UNDERWOOD, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about eight miles from Ayleſbury, near the road to Biceſter. The manor was anciently in the baronial family of St. Amand, who had a ſeat here, and continued poſſeſſed of the eſtate for ſeveral generations. Almeric de St. Amand, of Grendon, was one of the god-fathers of King Edward I.[g] About the year 1795, the manor of Grendon was ſold by William Pigott eſq. of Doderſhall, in the neighbouring pariſh of Quainton, whoſe family had poſſeſſed it nearly three centuries, to the preſent proprietor, the Rev. G. H. Jervoiſe Purefoy, of Shalleſton, in this county.

[g] Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 224.

In

In the parish church are monuments of several of the Pigott family; Richard Viscount Say and Sele, who died in 1781, and his lady, Christabella, who died in 1789, at the great age of 94. This lady, who was remarkable for preserving all the vivacity of youth, and joining in the amusements of the young till almost the latest period of her life, resided at Dodershall, which she possessed by jointure from her second husband, John Pigott esq. She was the last of the ancient family of the Tyrrells of this county, being daughter of Sir Thomas Tyrrell bart. by whose death the title became extinct.

Mr. Pigott is patron of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed by an act of Parliament, which passed in the year 1769, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes, but not to affect his right to tithes of the Woodlands.

Anne, Lady Pigott, founded a charity-school at this place for six children.

GROVE, in the hundred of Cotslow and deanery of Muresley, is a very small village, containing only three houses. It lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, by the side of the Grand Junction Canal, nearly three miles from Leighton-Buzard. The manor was successively in the families of De la Grove, Brook, Loring, Peyvre, and Broughton. In the reign of King Henry VIII. it was in the Dormers, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Stanhopes, and is now the property of the Earl of Chesterfield, who is also patron of the rectory. Divine service is performed only once in three weeks, at the parish church, which is a very small mean building.

HADDENHAM, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about seven miles south-west of Aylesbury, and three from Thame, in Oxfordshire. King William the Conqueror demised the manor of Haddenham during his life, to Archbishop Lanfranc, who gave it to Gundulph, bishop of Rochester. On the donor's death it reverted to the crown, and William Rufus, on his accession, demanded 100l. for renewing it, a sum so exorbitant, that the prelates were both astonished, and declared they were not possessed of so large a sum, nor knew how to procure it. Two courtiers, well inclined to all parties, suggested that the manor should be restored to the see, on condition that Gundulph, who was very intelligent and expert in masonry, should, at his own expence, build the castle of Rochester with stone; which proposal was at length accepted on the bishop's being exonerated from further repairs. Ernulph, Gundulph's successor, who is supposed to have been the author of the Textus Roffensis, where this is related, supposed that the cost amounted to 60l[b]. After this transaction, it appears that the manor of Haddenham was granted

[b] See Archæologia, Vol. VI.

by William Rufus, to the prior and convent of St. Andrew, at Rocheſter, to whom it was confirmed by King Henry I. with the manor of Cuddington, as an appendage[i]. In 1294, the monks procured a charter for a market on Thurſdays, at this place[k], but it was diſcontinued in 1301, in conſequence of a law-ſuit with the biſhop of Lincoln, who found that it injured his market at the neighbouring town of Thame: the ſame charter granted a fair for three days, at the feſtival of the aſſumption of the Virgin Mary. After the diſſolution of monaſteries, this manor continued for ſome time in the crown: it is now in moieties, one of which belongs to Mrs. Anne Herbert, ſiſter and co-heir of Philip Herbert eſq. who died in 1749; the remaining moiety, which paſſed in marriage with the other co-heir to the late Lord Wenman's father, is now, by bequeſt, the property of Miſs Bertie.

The Grenville family had for many generations an eſtate in this pariſh, which acquired the name of Grenville's Manor; it was alienated from the family in the early part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and having within a few years paſſed through ſeveral hands, was purchaſed jointly in 1569, by Robert Roſe, John Roſs, and Robert Morſe. Grenville-Manor-Place, with a third part of the eſtate, is ſtill in the deſcendants of Robert Roſe, and Roſs's ſhare, we have been informed, ſtill remains in his family.

The pariſh church is a large Gothic ſtructure, much out of repair, it contains no monuments of note; there are a few memorials for the family of Saunders. Near the church was a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, of which there are no remains. The great tithes belong to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter, who are patrons of the vicarage.

HALTON, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Riſborough, lies between two roads leading from Ayleſbury to London, nearly five miles from Ayleſbury, and about two from Wendover. Archbiſhop Cranmer ſold the manor, which had belonged from time immemorial to the ſee of Canterbury, to Henry Bradſhaw, afterwards Chief Baron of the Exchequer. From him it paſſed, by an heir female, to the noble family of Fermor, who, about the year 1720, ſold it to Sir Francis Daſhwood bart. grandfather of Sir John Daſhwood King bart. the preſent proprietor. The manor-houſe, which for ſome years paſt has been the principal reſidence of Sir J. Daſhwood King, is pleaſantly ſituated on the banks of the grand Junction Canal, and under the Chiltern hills.

In the pariſh church is a braſs plate, with the effigies of Chief Baron Bradſhaw, who died in 1553. Sir J. Daſhwood King is patron of the rectory, which is in the peculiar juriſdiction of the Archbiſhop of Canterbury.

[i] Dugdale's Monaſt. III. p. 2, 4. [k] Cart. 23 Edw. I.

HAMBLEDEN,

HAMBLEDEN, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, is ſituated in a pleaſant valley, about a mile out of the road from Marlow to Henley, at the diſtance of about ſix miles from the former, and ſomewhat more than four from the latter. It had formerly a market on Mondays, granted in 1315 to the Baddleſmeres, with a fair on the feſtival of St. Bartholomew[l], and confirmed, in 1321, to Hugh Deſpencer the elder, who had a temporary poſſeſſion of the manor, during an attainder, which was afterwards reverſed. The manor of Hambleden was anciently in the Clares, Earls of Glouceſter, from whom it paſſed, by female heirs, to the families of Baddleſmere, Tibtot, and Scrope. After the death of Emanuel Scrope, Earl of Sunderland, in 1631, it became the property of Thomas Earl Rivers, who married one of his natural daughters. Before the cloſe of the 17th century it was purchaſed, but not immediately, as it appears[m], of the Rivers family, by Robert Clayton, lord mayor of London in 1680, in whoſe family it continued till within a few years. The late Sir Robert Clayton bart. gave it by will to his ſolicitor, R. I. Troward eſq. who in 1803 ſold the manor, and a conſiderable part of the eſtate, to Robert Scott eſq. of Danesfield. The manor-houſe was for many generations a ſeat of the Scropes. It was rebuilt on a new ſite about the year 1604, by the laſt Lord Scrope, of Bolton, who was Lord Preſident of the north, and in 1627, created Earl of Sunderland. It is ſaid that King Charles I. came to this houſe on the 28th of April 1646, with Dr. Hudſon and Mr. Aſhburnham, on his road from Oxford to St. Alban's; the houſe is at preſent unoccupied.

There is another manor in this pariſh, called Greenland or Ewden, which was ſucceſſively in the ancient families of Chowne and Shipwaſh. From the latter it paſſed to a younger branch of the Doyleys of Oxfordſhire. In 1651 it was ſold by Sir John Doyley to Sir Bulſtrode Whitlock. After ſome intermediate alienations, the eſtate became divided between two co-heireſſes. The Rev. Mr. Hinde, who reſides at Mill-end, being in poſſeſſion of one of the moieties in right of his wife, who was widow of the late Richard Lane eſq. purchaſed the other moiety in 1801, of the Rev. Henry Stevens, of Bradfield, in Berks. Mr. Hinde retaining the manor, has ſince ſold Greenland farm, and the ſite of Greenland-houſe to Mr. Steers.

Greenland-houſe was a ſeat of the Doyleys: in the month of May 1644, being then the property of Sir John Doyley, it was garriſoned for the king, with a view of commanding the paſſage of the river Thames from Henley and Reading to London[n]. After ſuſtaining a long and ſevere ſiege from the parliamentary forces under the command of Major-General Brown, the houſe having been almoſt reduced to a heap of ruins[o], the batteries from the oppoſite ſide of the river, it was

[l] Cart. 9 Edw. II. [m] See an epitaph in Langley's Hiſtory of the hundred of Deſborough, p. 257. [n] Walker's Hiſtorical Diſcourſes, p. 11. [o] Clarendon, 8vo. Edit. II. 529.

ſurrendered

ſurrendered on honourable terms the 11th of July, by its governor, Col. Hawkins. The ground about the farm exhibits the appearance of extenſive fortifications and buildings.

In this pariſh is Parmoor, the ſeat of John Doyley eſq. a deſcendant of the Doyleys of Greenland-houſe. This eſtate belonged formerly to the Knights Hoſpitallers; it came to the Doyleys by marriage with the family of Saunders. Lady Periam, relict of Sir Robert Doyley, and afterwards wife of Sir William Periam, who died in 1621, bequeathed an eſtate in this pariſh to archbiſhop Laud, to be diſpoſed of at his diſcretion, for the benefit of ſome college in Oxford; the archbiſhop founded with it a fellowſhip and two ſcholarſhips at Baliol College.

In the pariſh church (a large and handſome Gothic ſtructure) are ſome memorials of the family of Scrope; an ancient mural monument, without either name or date, which from the arms, and the name of Elizabeth which occur in ſome verſes, appears to have been intended for Thomas Lord Sandys, of the Vine, who married Elizabeth, daughter of George Lord Roos, who died in 1526; and a tablet for Dr. Francis Gregory, rector of Hambleden, who died in 1707; he had been uſher of Weſtminſter ſchool, under Dr. Buſby, and was author of ſeveral ſchool treatiſes and controverſial tracts. In a burial-place belonging to the Doyleys, is a handſome monument for Sir Cope Doyley, who died in 1633, and his wife Martha, "who lived together in inviolated bands of holy wedlock 22 years, and multiplied themſelves into five ſons and five daughters." The following lines inſcribed on the monument were written, probably, by Francis Quarles, who was lady Doyley's brother.

"Aſk not me who's buried here,
Go aſk the Commons, aſk the ſheire;
Go aſk the church, they'll tell thee who,
As well as blubberd eyes can doe:
Goe aſk the heraulde, aſk the poore,
Thine eares ſhall hear enough to aſk no more.
Then if thine eye bedewe this ſacred urne,
Each drop a pearle will turne
T' adorne his tombe, or if thou canſt not vent,
Thou bringſt more marble to his monument.

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Wouldſt thou, reader, draw to life,
The perfect copy of a wife:
Read on, and then redeem from ſhame,
That loſt, that honourable name.
This duſt was once in ſpirit a Jael,
Rebecca in grace, in heart an Abigail;

In works a Dorcas, to the church a Hannah,
And to her ſpouſe, Suſanna.
Prudently ſimple, providently wary,
To the world a Martha, and to heaven a Mary."

The valuable rectory of Hambleden is in the gift of Sir Matthew Ridley, by the bequeſt of the late William Colborne eſq. of Bath, his lady's uncle, by whom it was purchaſed a few years ago. James Howell, in a letter to his brother Thomas, (afterwards biſhop of Briſtol,) written in 1628, and publiſhed in his familiar letters, ſays, that it was then valued at 500l. *per annum*, and better than ſome biſhoprics. He offers his brother the refuſal of purchaſing the next preſentation, which had been given him by Lord Sunderland, in ſatisfaction for ſome *arrearages*. This nobleman, when he built the preſent manor-houſe, gave the old manſion to the rector and his ſucceſſors. The preſent rectory-houſe was built on its ſite by Dr. Kenrick, in 1724; it ſtands in a beautiful ſituation, at ſome diſtance from the village and church. The pariſh regiſter records many births and burials of the families of Doyley and Scrope; the burial of Lord Chief Baron Hen, of Ireland, who died in 1708; and ſeveral inſtances of longevity, among which are four perſons who attained to the age of a hundred years or upwards.

GREAT-HAMPDEN, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about five miles to the ſouth-weſt of Wendover. The manor had been for many generations in the ancient family of Hampden, which became extinct in the male line by the death of John Hampden eſq. in 1754. This Mr. Hampden, who is called in his epitaph the twenty-fourth lord of the manor in lineal deſcent, bequeathed it to his couſin, the Hon. Robert Trevor, who took the name of Hampden. It is now the property and occaſional reſidence of his ſon, Lord Viſcount Hampden, whoſe chief ſeat is at Glynde, in Suſſex. There is a tradition that King Edward III. and the Black Prince once honoured Hampden with a viſit, and that whilſt the prince and his hoſt were exerciſing themſelves in feats of chivalry, a quarrel aroſe, in which the prince received a blow on his face, which occaſioned him and his royal father to quit the place in great wrath, and to ſeize on ſome valuable manors belonging to their hoſt, as a puniſhment for his raſhneſs. This ſtory gave riſe to the following rhimes:

"Tring, Wing, and Ivinghoe,
Hampden did foregoe,
For ſtriking of a blow,
And glad he did eſcape ſo."

This

This tradition, like many others of a like nature, will not bear the teſt of examination; for it appears by record, that neither the manors of Tring, Wing, or Ivinghoe, ever were in the Hampden family. Queen Elizabeth was entertained at Hampden, during one of her progreſſes, by Griffith Hampden eſq. who, for her more commodious acceſs to the houſe, is ſaid to have cut an avenue through his wood, ſtill called the Queen's gap.

In Hampden-Houſe are ſeveral family portraits, ſome of which are good pictures; none of them are inſcribed with names, nor have we been able (by application to the preſent noble owner) to procure any information concerning them. There is a portrait alſo of the aged Marquis of Wincheſter in his robes, and a whole length picture of Oliver Cromwell, with a boy tying his ſaſh. In the pariſh church are ſeveral memorials of the Hampden family, the oldeſt date is 1493. The monument of John Hampden eſq. the laſt heir male of the family, is ornamented with a medallion, on which is a tree, hung with ſhields, containing the arms of the Hampdens and their alliances; at the foot of the tree is a repreſentation in baſſo relievo, of the battle of Chalgrave field, in which John Hampden, the celebrated patriot, received his death's wound: he died about three weeks after the battle, on the 24th of June 1643, and was buried the following day with his anceſtors in Hampden church.

Lord Hampden is patron of the rectory, which in 1799 was conſolidated with Great Kimble.

LITTLE-HAMPDEN, in the hundred of Ayleſbury, lies about four miles ſouth of Wendover, among the woods. It is a ſeparate pariſh, but its chapel is annexed to the church of Hartwell, which is about ſeven miles diſtant. The manor had the ſame poſſeſſors as that of Hartwell, till it was ſold about the year 1710, by Sir Thomas Lee, to the Dods of Swallowfield, in Berkſhire: it is now the property of the Right Hon. John Trevor, whoſe father, the late Lord Hampden, purchaſed it of the repreſentatives of the Dods.

HANSLAPE, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about five miles north of Stony-Stratford, on the borders of Northamptonſhire: it was formerly a market-town. The market, which was on Thurſdays, has been long diſcontinued: it was granted in 1293 to William Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who at the ſame time had a grant of a fair at this place, at the feſtival of St. James, to continue for fifteen days. This fair alſo has been diſuſed, but there is one on Holy Thurſday. The Hanſlapes and their repreſentatives the Mauduits, who inherited this manor by a female heir, were of baronial rank, and had the ſeat of their barony at Caſtle-

thorp[a], formerly a hamlet of this pariſh. Robert Lord Mauduit being in rebellion againſt King John, garriſoned this caſtle, which was taken and demoliſhed by Foulkes de Brent, on the 18th of December 1215. Lord Mauduit returning to his allegiance in the ſucceeding reign, repoſſeſſed this manor, which he had forfeited, and in 1222 made a park at Hanſlape, and had a grant of does to ſtock it out of the king's foreſt of Salcey. On the death of William Mauduit, Earl of Warwick, his title and eſtates devolved to William Beauchamp, who had married his ſiſter and heir: in 1291 he had the king's licence to embattle his manor-houſe at Hanſlape. On the attainder of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, the manor of Hanſlape was granted, in 1397, to Thomas Mowbray[b], who about that time was created Duke of Norfolk, but being himſelf attainted within a few months afterwards, it was granted in tail-male to Edward Duke of York[c], who loſt his life at the battle of Agincourt; dying without iſſue, this manor reverted to the crown. It was occaſionally granted to branches of the royal family, and formed part of Queen Elizabeth's revenue before her acceſſion to the throne. In 1663, it was granted in fee to Sir Thomas Tyrrell, one of the juſtices of the Common Pleas: his ſon having obtained an act of parliament to veſt this manor in truſtees for the payment of debts, it was ſold about the year 1707, to George Pierrepont, who was created Lord Pierrepont of Hanſlape in 1714. Dying without iſſue, this eſtate devolved to the Duke of Kingſton, and was purchaſed of the late duke's heirs, by the guardians of the preſent proprietor, Edward Watts eſq. who reſides at Hanſlape-park.

The manor of Tothall-end, in this pariſh, belonged anciently to the family of Tothall, and afterwards to the Lanes: it has lately been ſold by Sir William Wake bart. who inherited it by female deſcent from the Lanes, to Mr. Watts, who poſſeſſes alſo by purchaſe from the Howes, the manors of Stoke and Singleton, which formerly belonged to the Pigot family.

A conſiderable eſtate in this pariſh belonged for ſeveral generations to the family of Forſter, who had a ſeat here, which was ſold in 1663, by Sir Grey Forſter, to Dr. Turner, dean of Canterbury, and afterwards became the reſidence of William Thurſby, the celebrated lawyer, who purchaſed it of Dr. Francis Turner, biſhop of Ely: it is now a farm-houſe, the property of Mrs. Lowndes of Abingdon-Street, Weſtminſter.

The pariſh church was remarkable for its taper ſpire, which, together with the lofty tower on which it ſtood, was above 200 feet from the ground, and afforded a very conſpicuous object to a large tract of country, in which ſpires rarely occur. Hanſlape ſpire, which was deſtroyed by lightning in the month of June 1804, was built in 1409, by Thomas Knight, then rector; the ſtone was brought from Ketton,

[a] Holinſhed. [b] Dugdale. [c] Pat. 22 Ric. II.

in

in Rutlandſhire: it was octagonal and fluted. The chancel has ſome remains of Saxon architecture: in Troughton's chapel are ſome memorials of a family of that name. The rectory, which had been appropriated to Newark college, in Leiceſter, was given by King Henry VIII. in 1538, together with the advowſon of the vicarage, to the Corporation of the city of Lincoln. In 1803, an act of parliament paſſed for incloſing Salcey-Green and Stocking-Green, in this pariſh, when an allotment of each was given to the impropriators in lieu of tithes. The pariſh was incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1778, when an allotment of land was given to the impropriator in lieu of tithes. Hanſlape-park and Boſenham-field were not exonerated from tithes by this act.

Lucy Lady Pierrepont founded a ſchool at Hanſlape for four children. The benefactions given to this pariſh by Iſabella Barnwell, William Fox, and a perſon now unknown, conſiſting of houſes and lands, producing a rent of 60l. *per annum*, are veſted in feoffees, who diſtribute the amount among the poor on St. Thomas's-day.

Moſt of the perſons in this pariſh are employed in the manufacture of lace, which is made here of a very fine quality [c].

HARDMEAD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies nearly ſix miles to the north-eaſt of Newport-Pagnell. The manor was anciently in the families of Giſford and Reynes, afterwards for nearly three centuries in the Windſors: having been given to the crown in exchange, it was granted in 1544 to the family of Cateſby, of whom it was purchaſed about the year 1675, by Serjeant Maynard. John Hobart, Earl of Buckinghamſhire, whoſe father had married the ſerjeant's grandaughter, ſold this manor about the year 1751, to Alexander Small eſq. of whoſe family it was purchaſed in 1792, by the preſent proprietor, the Earl of Kinnoul.

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the Cateſbys. The advowſon of the rectory, which belonged formerly to Merton abbey, has, ſince the diſſolution of monaſteries, been annexed to the manor.

HARDWICK, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about four miles from Ayleſbury, on the road to Buckingham. The manor belonged anciently to the family of Newmarch: upon a partition being made between two co-heireſſes of that family, the manor became divided into moieties, one of which having been ſucceſſively in the families of Moels and Ruſſell, was ſold to William of Wickham, biſhop of Wincheſter, and by him made part of the endowment of his newly founded college, in Oxford: the other moiety paſſed to the family of Bottreaux, by whom it was ſold about the year 1460, to the Brecknocks; and by

[c] See p. 482.

them,

them, about the year 1542, to the Lees. Both theſe eſtates were held of the king, as of his honor of Berkhamſted.

The manor of Weedon, a conſiderable hamlet in this pariſh, was alſo in the baronial family of Moels, who probably inherited it from that of Newmarch. It was afterwards in the Cobhams. Sir John Cobham gave the manor of Weedon-Hill, in Cheſham, and Weedon in the vale, to the crown, in the reign of Edw. III. It is probable that it was, at a ſubſequent period, granted to the Brecknocks or Lees. The manor of Hardwick *cum* Weedon was purchaſed in 1801, of Lord Dillon, the repreſentative of the Lee family, by the Marquis of Buckingham. Lillies, at Weedon, which is the manor-place, was the jointure houſe of Elizabeth, relict of Sir Francis Lee, (afterwards Counteſs of Lindſey,) who died in 1719: it is now occupied by Edward Nugent eſq. The advowſon of the rectory is annexed to the New-College eſtate. In the church are ſome memorials of the Lees. Hardwick was incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1778, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector, who was entitled to all the tithes of the pariſh, except thoſe of certain fields ſpecified in the act. The hamlet of Weedon, containing 1700 acres, was not incloſed till 1801, when an allotment of land was again given to the rector of Hardwick.

Hartwell, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about two miles from Ayleſbury, on the road to Thame: it was formerly a hamlet of Stane[d]. The manor was in the family of Luton, from the reign of Henry III. to the year 1392, or ſomewhat later; afterwards in the Hampdens: it is now the property of the Rev. Sir Charles Lee bart. whoſe anceſtor, Sir Thomas Lee, acquired it in marriage with the daughter of Michael Hampden eſq. Thomas Lee, great grandſon of Sir Thomas, was created a baronet in 1660. The Lees were ſettled at Moreton, in the neighbouring pariſh of Dinton, as early as the fifteenth century. Hartwell-houſe is a ſpacious old manſion, a part of which was altered and modernized by Sir William Lee, father of the preſent baronet. The ſtate gallery remains with its ancient furniture, velvet chairs, and gobeline tapeſtry. In the great dining-room are a few portraits, among which is a fine whole-length of Sir John Suckling, which was ſuppoſed by Sir Joſhua Reynolds to be by the hand of Cornelius Janſen. There are alſo ſome views of the houſe, which were taken before the alteration.

The manor of Weſt-Orchard, *alias* Seintclare, *alias* Bray, which names ſeem to denote the families by whom it had been formerly poſſeſſed, having been forfeited

[d] See Pat. 4 Edw. IV.

by

by the attainder of Sir Robert Whittingham, was granted in the year 1464 to Sir Thomas Montgomery, and his heirs male[e].

The church was rebuilt by the preſent baronet's father, Sir William Lee, in imitation of the Gothic ſtyle, with two octagonal towers: the roof is richly ornamented with tracery. There is a tablet in memory of ſome of the Hampden family, particularly Sir Alexander, father of John Hampden the patriot. In the old church were ſome braſs plates, with memorials of the Hampdens. Sir Charles Lee is patron and incumbent of the rectory. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1776, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

GREAT-HARWOOD, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about two miles north of Winſlow: it had formerly a market on Wedneſdays, granted in 1447 to New-College, in Oxford, together with a fair for three days, at the feſtival of St. James.

The manor was given by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, to the priory of Newton-Longueville; on the ſuppreſſion of which, in 1415, it was granted to John Duke of Bedford: reverting to the crown at his death, it was granted in 1441 to the wardens and ſcholars of New-College, in Oxford, who are patrons of the rectory. In the church are ſome memorials of the family of Barker.

*Singleborough*, a conſiderable hamlet about a mile from the village, has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1799, when an allotment of land was given to the rector, in lieu of the ſmall tithes, and for the great tithes to which he was ſaid to be entitled, as leſſee under New-College. Several perſons are mentioned in the act as claimants of the manor of Singleborough.

LITTLE-HARWOOD, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about two miles and a half to the north-eaſt of Winſlow. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Alban's, was granted in 1599 to Sir John Forteſcue, whoſe ſon ſold it to Sir George Villiers. It was purchaſed of the mortgagees, of George Villiers, the ſecond Duke of Buckingham (of that family), by William Lowndes eſq. anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, who has taken the name of Selby. A capital manſion at this place, which had belonged ſucceſſively to the families of Pigot, Styles, Carter, and Adams, is now the property and ſeat of the Rev. Mr. Langſton: it was purchaſed by his father, Sir Stephen Langſton,

[e] Pat. 4 Edw. IV.

alderman of London, who died in 1797, and lies buried in the church, where is a monument to his memory. Mr. Langſton has the impropriation of the great tithes, and is patron and incumbent of the vicarage. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1766, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to Mr. Kidgell Sandon, then impropriator of the great tithes, and a corn-rent to the vicar.

HAVERSHAM, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies nearly four miles north-eaſt of Stony-Stratford. The manor was in the Peverells at the time of the Norman ſurvey, and afterwards in an ancient family, who took their name from the village. From the Haverſhams this manor paſſed by heirs female to the families of De la Plaunch, Pabenham, Hugford, and Lucy. John de Haverſham had the king's licence to embattle his manſion at Haverſham, in 1304[f]. The Lucys continued to be poſſeſſed of the manor till after the middle of the 17th century. In 1664, it was purchaſed by the Thompſons: John Thompſon eſq. was created a peer in 1697, by the title of Lord Haverſham, which became extinct on the death of his ſon. The manor was ſold by the laſt Lord Haverſham, in 1720, to Lucy Knightley eſq. a deſcendant of its ancient owners, the Lucys. In 1764 it was purchaſed of Valentine Knightley eſq. by the truſtees of Alexander Small eſq. the preſent proprietor, then under age. The manor-houſe, which was the ſeat of the Thompſons, has been in part pulled down; the remainder is fitted up as a farm-houſe.

In the pariſh church is a beautiful monument, with the effigies of a female, lying on an altar tomb, under a rich Gothic canopy, ſuppoſed to be that of Elizabeth Lady Clinton, the heireſs of the De la Plaunches, whoſe fourth huſband was Sir John Clinton.

Mr. Small is patron of the rectory. In 1763, juſt before he ſold the eſtate, an act of parliament paſſed, to enable Lucy Knightley eſq. to incloſe certain fields in Haverſham, and to acquire the tithes and glebe, making a compenſation to the rector, by an allotment of land and a corn-rent, then valued at 195l. *per annum*.

HAWRIDGE, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies on the borders of Hertfordſhire, about ſix miles nearly to the eaſt of Wendover. The manor was anciently in the Mauduits and Beauchamps, who ſucceſſively enjoyed the title of Earl of Warwick. Sir Thomas Peniſton was lord of this manor, in the reign of Henry VIII. It was ſoon afterwards in the family of Taſburgh, who ſold it to the Seares in 1630. It was purchaſed of that family in 1748, by Robert

[f] Pat. 32 Edw. I.

Darell

Darell esq. father of Edward Darell esq. the present proprietor. Hawridge Court, the site of the manor, is a farm-house, built on a large circular platform, surrounded with a deep trench and vallum.

In the church are some memorials of the family of Seare, and the monument of Dorothy Lady Pakington[a], who died in 1577. William Sandby esq. is patron of the rectory.

HEDGERLEY, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies about two miles and a half south-east of Beaconsfield. The principal manor has passed with that of Denham[b], and is now the property of Benjamin Way esq. A manor, called Hedgerley-Bulstrode, passed from the Bulstrodes to the Brudenells, by the marriage of William Brudenell esq. with Agnes, daughter and heir of Robert Bulstrode esq. of Hedgerley-Bulstrode, in the fourteenth century.

In the parish church are some memorials of the Bulstrode family. Mr. Way is patron of the rectory.

HEDSOR, in the hundred of Desborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies near the banks of the Thames, about five miles east of Marlow, and about the same distance from Maidenhead, in Berkshire. The manor belonged anciently to a family who took their name from the village: in the fifteenth century it was in the Restwolds, from whom it passed to the Hawtreys. Rowland Hynde purchased it about the year 1560, and it continued in his family nearly a century, when it passed by purchase to the Chilcots, of whom it was inherited by the Parkers: in 1764 it was purchased of Mrs. Elizabeth Parker, by William Lord Boston, and is now the property of his son, Frederick Lord Boston.

Hedsor-Lodge, the seat of Lord Boston, was built in 1778; it stands on the brow of a hill, commanding a very beautiful view of the Thames, and some of the most picturesque parts of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. The house, which is elegant and commodious, contains a small collection of pictures, chiefly portraits of the families of Irby and Paget, connected by marriage. In the library is a singular portrait of Conrad Ernest Copperman, a dwarf, who was page of the back stairs to the Princess Dowager of Wales; he died at the age of 35, being then only three feet five inches in height.

An estate in this parish, called Lambert-Farm, was formerly held under the manor, by the service of bringing in the first dish at the lord's table, on St. Stephen's-

[a] She was relict of Sir Thomas Pakington knt. and afterwards married to Thomas Tasburgh esq. lord of the manor of Hawridge. [b] See p. 548.

day, and preſenting him with two hens, a cock, a gallon of ale, and two manchets of white bread; after dinner the lord delivered to the tenant a ſparrowhawk and a couple of ſpaniels, to be kept at his coſt and charges, for the lord's uſe: a compoſition is now paid in lieu of this ſervice.

In the pariſh church, which is a very ſmall building, are ſome memorials of the families of Hynde and Parker. In the church-yard are depoſited the remains of Nathaniel Hooke, author of the Roman hiſtory, to whoſe memory a tablet has been lately put up at the expence of Lord Boſton, with the following inſcription: "*Sub hoc tumulo corpus deponi juſſit Nathaniel Hooke Armiger, qui multiplici literarum varietate et ſtudio eruditus, Romanæ hiſtoriæ auctor celebratus emicuit; de literis verò quantum meruit edita uſque teſtabuntur opera. Ex vitâ demigravit annorum plenus & verè pius viceſimo ſecundo die Julii Anno Domini* 1763. *Ad cineres patris ſui pariter requieſcit corpus filiæ dilectiſſimæ Janæ Mariæ Hooke cujus animæ propitietur Deus. Sexagenaria obiit viceſimo octavo die Aprilis, Anno Domini* 1793. *Hoc pietatis ſignum poni voluit Fredericus Baro de Boſton,* 1801."

Near the church is a yew-tree, which meaſures 27 feet in circumference.

Lord Boſton and the biſhop of Lincoln are patrons of the rectory. The biſhop preſents every third turn.

HILLESDON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies nearly four miles ſouth of the county town. The manor was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, afterwards in the Bolbecs, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Veres and Courtneys. After the attainder of the Earl of Devon, in 1461, it was given to Sir Walter Devereux, who being ſlain at Boſworth-field, it was reſtored to the Courteneys, but was again forfeited by the attainder of the Marquis of Exeter, in 1539. King Edward VI. granted it to Thomas Denton eſq. whoſe deſcendant, Edmund Denton, of Hilleſdon, was created a baronet in 1699. The title became extinct at his death: the manor of Hilleſdon, which continued in a collateral branch of the family, is now the property of Mrs. Coke, relict of the late Wenman Coke eſq. and daughter of George Chamberlayne eſq. whoſe father married Elizabeth, eldeſt daughter and co-heir of Alexander Denton eſq.

The manor-houſe, the greater part of which was taken down a few years ago, was, during the civil war in the ſeventeenth century, made a garriſon for the king, being then the ſeat of Sir Alexander Denton knt. who ſuffered great loſſes on account of his attachment to the royal cauſe. The garriſon was ſurrendered in 1643, the houſe plundered, and Sir Alexander Denton committed to priſon, where he died of a broken heart.

In the pariſh church are ſeveral monuments of the Dentons; that of Catherine, wife

NORTH EAST VIEW OF HILLESDON CHURCH.

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wife of Alexander Denton eſq. one of the juſtices of the Common Pleas, is by Sir Henry Cheere, and is ornamented with buſts in white marble, of the judge and his lady. There is alſo a monument for George Woodward eſq. envoy to Poland, who died at Warſaw in 1735, and the tomb of Godfrey Boate, one of the juſtices of the king's bench, in Ireland, (the ſubject of Dean Swift's quibbling elegy,) who died in 1722. The church, which was rebuilt in 1493, is a very handſome Gothic ſtructure: in the eaſt window of the north aiſle is ſome very rich ſtained glaſs, repreſenting various ſcenes from the legend of St. Nicholas.

The great tithes, which were given by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, to Nutley abbey, are now veſted in the dean and chapter of Chriſt Church, in Oxford, who are patrons of the donative.

HITCHAM, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies about a mile north of the Bath road, and about three miles from Maidenhead, in Berkſhire. The manor, which it is probable had belonged to ſome religious houſe, was in the reign of Henry VIII. the property of Lord Chief Juſtice Baldwin, whoſe daughter and heir brought it in marriage to Thomas Ramſey eſq. Nicholas Clerke, marrying a daughter of Mr. Ramſey, became poſſeſſed of this manor. Queen Elizabeth paid a viſit to his ſon Sir William, at Hitcham, in 1602, upon which occaſion we are told, that "he ſo behaved himſelf, that he pleaſed nobody, but gave occaſion to have his miſery and vanity ſpread far and wide[c]." His grandſon, Sir John, was created a baronet in 1660, being then deſcribed of Hitcham; but the ſame year an act of parliament paſſed, to confirm his ſale of this eſtate to Charles Doe. The Clerkes removed afterwards to Shabbington, in this county; the title is now extinct. The manor of Hitcham became the property of Dr. John Friend, the celebrated phyſician, who lies buried in the church, where there is a monument to his memory; it was purchaſed of his repreſentative, by the preſent proprietor, Lord Grenville: the manor-houſe is now occupied as a ſchool.

In the pariſh church are ſeveral memorials for the families of Ramſey and Clerke. The windows of the chancel are decorated with ſtained glaſs, the colours of which are very brilliant[d]. The rector of this pariſh is nominated by the provoſt and fellows of Eton College, purſuant to the bequeſt of Mr. Archer, a former fellow, who being poſſeſſed of the advowſon, has bound his heirs to preſent a clerk, nominated by the college. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1778, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

[c] Queen Elizabeth's Progreſſes, publiſhed by Nichols.

[d] See p. 488.

HITCHENDEN, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies ſcarcely two miles north of High-Wycombe. The manor having been part of the poſſeſſions of Odo, biſhop of Baieux, half-brother to William the Conqueror, was granted by Henry I. to his chamberlain, Geffrey de Clinton, and by him given to the prior and convent of Kenilworth. In 1540 it was granted by King Henry VIII. to Sir Robert Dormer, from whoſe family it paſſed by a female heir to the Stanhopes. About the year 1738, Sir William Stanhope ſold the manor and advowſon of Hitchenden to Charles Savage eſq. whoſe niece, Ellen, Counteſs Dowager of Conyngham, is the preſent proprietor, and reſides in the manor-houſe. The manor of Ravenſmere in this pariſh, which lies in the hundred of Ayleſbury, was anciently in the family of Albini, from whom it deſcended, through heirs female, to the Fitzalans, Arundels, and Dormers: it is now the property of Lord Dormer. The manor of Overhall and Pigots, in Hitchenden, belonged ſucceſſively to the families of Morton, Sydenham, and Hampden; it is now the property of Lord Hampden. The abbot and convent of Miſſenden had a manor in this pariſh; what became of it after the diſſolution, we have not been able to aſcertain: it is not improbable that it was the manor of Uphall, which belonged to the Lanes, in the early part of the laſt century; we could not learn who is the preſent proprietor of this eſtate. A manor within the manor of Hitchenden, belonging to Mr. Lloyd, was advertiſed for ſale in the month of November 1804.

In the pariſh church are ſome ancient tombs, with figures in baſſo-relievo, ſuppoſed to have been intended for ſome of the poſterity of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leiceſter, who aſſumed the name of Welleſbourn. The arms on the ſhields are, 1. Gul. a lion rampant, with two tails, Arg. devouring a man-child, Mountfort, Earl of Leiceſter. 2. Arg. a lion rampant, devouring a child, within an orle of croſs-croſslets, Sable.—Mountfort of Warwickſhire. 3. Bendy of ten. Or and Gul. Mountfort of Beldeſert. 4. Gul. a Griffin ſegreant devouring a child Or.—A chief Checky, Or and Az. over all a bend Ermine—Welleſbourn. One of the figures is very fair, and repreſents a cruſader in a coat of mail: the others are of ruder workmanſhip; one of theſe repreſents an armed man, with a ſword in one hand and a croſs in the other. The deſcendants of Simon de Mountfort are ſaid by tradition to have lived at a houſe in this pariſh, called Wreck-hall, in the windows of which were formerly the ſame coats of arms which occur on the tombs in the church. Under an arch in the ſouth wall of the chapel, in which are the above-mentioned tombs, lies an emaciated figure, in a ſhroud, on an altar tomb: the ſhields on this monument are all plain.

The great tithes, which were appropriated to the prior and convent of Kenilworth, are now the property of Lady Conyngham, who is patroneſs of the vicarage.

HOGGESTON, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about three miles and a half to the ſouth-eaſt of Winſlow. It had formerly a market on Fridays, granted in 1314 to William de Bermingham, together with a fair on the feſtival of the exaltation of the holy croſs, commonly called Holyrood-day: both the market and fair have long been diſcontinued. The manor was ſucceſſively in the families of Paganel, Somery, and Bermingham; from the latter it paſſed by marriage, about the year 1520, to the Bulſtrodes, who, about 1546, ſold it to the Dormers: it is now the property of Earl Stanhope.

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the family of Mayne, and the tomb of the founder, of whom there is an effigy, much mutilated, holding in his hand a church. It is ſuppoſed to have been intended for William de Bermingham, lord of the manor, who died in 1342. The advowſon of the rectory was annexed to the manor till the year 1798, when Lord Stanhope ſold it to Worceſter College in Oxford.

HOGSHAW, in the hundred of Aſhendon, lies about five miles to the ſouth-weſt of Winſlow. The manor was given by Ralph Mallet to the Knights-Templars, who had a preceptory here: when their order was aboliſhed, it was granted with moſt of their other eſtates to the Knights-Hoſpitallers. After the general diſſolution of monaſteries, it was granted by King Henry VIII. to the family of Lane. Having paſſed by a female heir to the Pigots, in 1650, it was purchaſed by Lord Brooke, of Beauchamp-Court, whoſe deſcendant, the preſent Earl of Warwick, ſold it a few years ago to Mrs. Dupré, of Wilſon park, in this county: it is now the property of her ſon, James Dupré eſq.

This pariſh was conſolidated with Eaſt-Claydon, in the time of biſhop Gardiner. Divine ſervice continued to be performed at Hogſhaw once a month, till the church was deſecrated. "In the year 1720, Lord Brooke's truſtees, God pardon them," (ſays Browne Willis,) "gave the tenant, one Stevens, a quaker, leave to pull down the church, for the purpoſe of building an ox-houſe." Several of the Pigot family lay buried in Hogſhaw church.

Hogſhaw, together with the hamlet of *Fulbrook*, contain now only ſeven houſes. The manor or reputed manor of Fulbrook, which had belonged to the Giffords and

and Winwoods, paſſed by a female heir from the laſt-mentioned family to Ralph, Duke of Montagu, and is now the property of Lord Francis Godolphin Oſborne.

HORSENDON, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about ſeven miles ſouth-weſt of Wendover, and about the ſame diſtance ſouth-eaſt of Thame, in Oxfordſhire. The manor was anciently the property of a family who took their name from the village. About the year 1210, it was purchaſed by the Braybrokes, and was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Leynham and Moreton: Cardinal Moreton's nephew ſold it to the family of Donne, from whom it paſſed by female heirs to the Cottons and Denhams. In the civil war of the 17th century, being then the property of Sir John Denham, the manor-houſe was garriſoned for the king; Sir John's ſon ſold it to the anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, John Grubb eſq. for whoſe family there are ſeveral memorials in the pariſh church. Mr. Grubb is patron of the benefice, which in Bacon's Liber Regis is called a rectory, but it is there obſerved, that inſtitution has been given to it only as a vicarage.

HORTON, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies about a mile to the ſouth of Colnbrook. The manor was anciently in the Windſor family, who continued to poſſeſs it ſeveral generations. In 1658, it became the property by purchaſe of Robert Scawen, whoſe great-grandſon James Scawen eſq. ſold it in 1782. After two or three intermediate conveyances, it was purchaſed in 1794, by the late Thomas Williams eſq. M. P. whoſe ſon, Owen Williams eſq. M. P. is the preſent proprietor. The manor-houſe, a large manſion, which had been a ſeat of the Scawens, was pulled down a few years ago, excepting a ſmall part, which is occupied by cottagers.

In the pariſh church is a heavy monument, without any inſcription, intended for ſome of the Scawen family, and the tomb of Milton's mother, who died in 1637. That great poet paſſed much time in his younger years at Horton, where his parents then reſided. Mr. Williams is patron of the rectory. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, which paſſed in 1799, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

HULCOT, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about three miles to the north-eaſt of Ayleſbury. The manor, which had belonged to the hoſpital of St. Thomas of Acon, was granted in 1540 to Greenway, and paſſed afterwards

afterwards to the families of Fountain and Neale: it was ſold by the latter in 1740, to Sir John Forteſcue Aland, one of the juſtices of the Common Pleas. Lord Forteſcue was poſſeſſed of it in 1777, ſince which time it has been in the family of Tynte, and is now the property of John Baker eſq. This manor is held with part of Bierton, and is uſually called the manor of Hulcot and Bierton. A part of Hulcot ſeems always to have paſſed with Ayleſbury, and to have been in the Botelers and Pakingtons.

The Rev. Mr. Langſton is patron of the rectory, and incumbent. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1779, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

Ickford, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about four miles and a half to the north-weſt of Thame. The manor appears to have been long held in moieties, one of which was, as early as the commencement of the 16th century, in the family of Danvers, and was lately the property of the Hon. Butler Danvers, who married the heireſs (ſince deceaſed) of the late Sir John Danvers bart. It now belongs to Mr. Roebuck. The other moiety was many years in the family of Tipping, for whom there is a monument in the pariſh church. Sir Thomas Tipping knt. procured an act of parliament, to enable him to ſell it, in 1703. It has ſince been for a conſiderable time in the family of Snell, to whom it ſtill belongs. The late Mrs. Crewe claimed a paramount authority in this manor, as included within her manor of Shabbington. Mr. Townſend of Newbury is patron of the rectory. Calybute Downing, a celebrated divine in the 17th century, was rector of this pariſh.

Ilmer, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about five miles eaſt of Thame. The manor was anciently in the families of Molins and Haſtings; afterwards in the Dormers, who held it by the ſervice of being marſhall of the king's falcons. In an abſtract of the king's revenue, printed at the end of a work, entitled "The firſt fourteen years of King James I." Lord Dormer is ſtiled maſter falconer to the king, within the manor of *Elmer*, in Buckinghamſhire, with a fee of 27l. 7s. 6d. *per annum*. From the Dormers this manor paſſed by a female heir to the noble family of Stanhope; it is now the property of the Earl of Cheſterfield.

The great tithes, which were formerly appropriated to the nunnery of Studley, in Oxfordſhire, belong now to the Earl of Cheſterfield, who is patron of the vicarage.

Isenhampsted,

ISENHAMPSTED, or ISELHAMPSTED-CHENEYS, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies on the borders of Hertfordſhire, about four miles north-weſt of Rickmanſworth, in that county, and about five miles nearly weſt of Amerſham. It is now generally called Cheneys; its original name is almoſt loſt, having been exchanged for that, which was firſt given to diſtinguiſh it from the neighbouring village of Iſenhampſted-Latimers, this place having been for many years the manor and ſeat of the ancient family of Cheyne. It had long been in the crown, previouſly to the reign of Edward III. to which monarch Thomas Cheyne, the firſt of the family who ſettled in this county, was ſhield-bearer. Iſelhampſted was a royal palace, at which, as may be traced from records[e], King Edward I. and King Edward III. in the early part of his reign, occaſionally reſided. From the Cheynes this manor paſſed to the Sapcotes, purſuant to the will of Agnes Lady Cheyne, in 1494: it is now the property of the Duke of Bedford, whoſe anceſtor, John Lord Ruſſell, afterwards Earl of Bedford, married Anne, relict of Sir John Broughton, of Tuddington, in Bedfordſhire, and heireſs of Sir Guy Sapcote. For greater ſecurity perhaps of the title, John Cheyne, the heir male of its ancient proprietor, conveyed the manor of Iſenhampſted-Cheneys to the Earl of Bedford, in 1560. Lord Ruſſell, upon coming into poſſeſſion of this eſtate, rebuilt the greater part of the manor-houſe, and made it his principal ſeat. "The old houſe of Cheynes is ſo tranſlated," ſays Leland, "by my Lord Ruſſell, that hath this houſe in right of his wife, that little or nothing of it remaynith ontranſlatid, and a great deal of the houſe is even newly ſet up and made of bricks and timber." Queen Elizabeth was entertained at Cheneys, by Francis Earl of Bedford, in 1570[f]. A conſiderable part of the houſe, which was built by his father, ſtill remains, but it has been deſerted by the Ruſſell family, ever ſince they fixed their principal reſidence at Woburn. In one of the wings now remaining is a long gallery, in which are ſome damaged pictures: the windows are ſtopped up. Cheneys is now occupied as a farm, and is the reſidence of the duke's principal tenant on this eſtate.

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the Cheynes. Two ancient tombs, which are now in the adjoining chapel, are ſuppoſed to belong to the ſame family. In this chapel, which was built by Anne Counteſs of Bedford, (the heireſs of the Sapcotes,) is a monument for herſelf and her huſband, John, the firſt Earl of Bedford. There are alſo the monuments of Francis Earl of Bedford, who died in 1585, and his counteſs; Anne Counteſs of Warwick, their daughter, and Lady Frances Bourchier, their grandaughter; Francis Earl of Bedford, who died in 1641,

[e] See Rotulus Familiæ, 18 Edw. I. in Turr. Lond.

[f] Queen Elizabeth's Progreſſes, publiſhed by Nichols.

and

and his counteſs; that of the firſt Duke of Bedford, a very heavy piece of ſculpture, with whole-length figures of the duke and ducheſs, and a medallion of the unfortunate William Lord Ruſſel, who loſt his head on Tower-Hill, and was buried at Cheneys, Auguſt 2, 1683; and that of Wriotheſley, Duke of Bedford, and his ducheſs, put up in 1769, by Wilton, from a deſign of Sir William Chambers. The laſt of this noble family here interred was the late duke, for whom as yet there is no monument at this place, nor is there any for his father, the Marquis of Taviſtock, or his grandfather, John Duke of Bedford. A tablet has lately been put up in memory of Georgina Elizabeth, wife of Lord John Ruſſel, (now Duke of Bedford,) and daughter of Viſcount Torrington, who died in 1801.

It appears by the pariſh regiſter, that the celebrated couple, Philip Earl of Pembroke and Anne Counteſs of Dorſet (who was grandaughter of the firſt Francis Earl of Bedford) were married at Cheneys on the third of June, 1630. The regiſter contains numerous entries of the Ruſſel family, and records the burial of the Hon. Capt. Francis Digby, (ſon of George Earl of Briſtol,) who was ſlain in the great ſea fight with the Dutch, in 1672.—The Duke of Bedford is patron of the rectory.

Anne Counteſs of Warwick, founded an alms-houſe at Cheneys, in 1605, and endowed it with 50l. *per annum*, for the ſupport of ten poor perſons, ſix of whom are to be of Cheneys, two of Northall, and two of Wotton-Under-edge, in Glouceſterſhire.

Iver, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies between Uxbridge and Colnbrook, being about three miles diſtant from each. It had formerly a market, originally granted in 1351 to Lord Neville, and confirmed in 1461 to the dean and chapter of Windſor, together with two fairs; the market has been long diſcontinued; a ſmall fair is held on the 10th of July. The opinion that this place took its name from Roger de Iveri, is certainly erroneous, and the learned biſhop Kennet appears in this inſtance to have fallen into a miſtake, and to have hazarded a conjecture, which is inconſiſtent with facts, which he has adduced from records in other parts of his uſeful work, the Parochial Antiquities, for he ſuppoſes Roger de Iveri to have ſucceeded to the manor of Iver, after Robert Doiley, who poſſeſſed it at the time of the Norman ſurvey. Roger de Iveri and Robert Doiley were contemporaries and ſworn friends; both came over with William the Conqueror, and had large grants of lands. Roger de Iveri had large eſtates in the county of Buckingham, but it does not appear that he ever poſſeſſed this manor, which in the ſurvey of Domeſday is called Evre and Evreham, being deſcribed as the property of Robert Doiley, from whom it paſſed with his daughter in marriage

to Milo Criſpin, and after his death to Brien Fitz-Count, the brave defender of Wallingford Caſtle, who, we are told, kept his Chriſtmas at Iver in the year 1143. Having afterwards entered into a religious order, the King (Henry II.) ſeized on all his eſtates. King Richard I. gave this manor to Robert de Clavering, ſome of whoſe deſcendants taking the name of Eure from this place, were anceſtors of the Lords Eure and the Eures of Axholme. Sir John Clavering having no male iſſue, gave this manor and other eſtates to King Edw. II. and his heirs [a]: King Edw. III. granted it, in 1329, to Simon de Bereford [b], and in 1336, to Ralph Lord Neville, of Raby, ſteward of the houſhold [c], whoſe grandfather had married Euphemia, daughter of Sir John Clavering above-mentioned [d]. In 1352, Lord Neville ſurrendered this manor to the king [e], who the next year granted it to his newly endowed college at Windſor [f]. The dean and chapter reconveyed it to the crown, in the reign of Henry VIII. and received other lands in exchange. King Edward VI. gave it to Lord Paget, in whoſe family it continued till 1772, when it was ſold by his deſcendant the preſent Earl of Uxbridge, and having ſince paſſed through ſeveral hands, is now the property of Henry Piper Sperling eſq.

The manor and park of Levinz, *alias* Parlaunt, belonged alſo to the Pagets; the Earl of Uxbridge, who died in 1743, bequeathed it to Sir William Irby, afterwards Lord Boſton, whoſe ſon Frederic Lord Boſton is the preſent proprietor: it is now a farm in the tenure of Mr. William Ives. The houſe, and great part of the eſtate, are in the pariſh of Langley. The manor of Oak-end, at the northern extremity of this pariſh, is now the property and ſeat of Francis Sackville Lloyd eſq. who inherits it by female deſcent from the family of Gould [g]. The manor of Mansfeld, ſo called probably from the ancient family of Mansfeld, of Cliefden, is now the property of Mr. Whittington.

Richings Lodge, in this pariſh, the ſeat of the Right Hon. John Sullivan, M. P. was purchaſed of the family of Britton, by Sir Peter Apſley, whoſe grandaughter brought it in marriage to the firſt Lord Bathurſt. The amiable and accompliſhed Counteſs of Hertford (afterwards Ducheſs of Somerſet) made this place, which her huſband had purchaſed of Lord Bathurſt, her chief reſidence during her widowhood; and changed its name to Percy Lodge. In one of her letters, lately publiſhed, ſhe obſerves, that on the ſpot where her green-houſe ſtood, was formerly a chapel, dedicated to St. Leonard: ſhe obſerves alſo, that an old covered bench in her gardens exhibited many remains of the wit of her predeceſſor's viſitors; Addiſon, Pope, Prior, Congreve, and Gay. The Ducheſs of Somerſet died at

[a] Dugdale's Baronage. [b] Pat. 3 Edw. III. [c] Pat. 10 Edw. III. [d] Dugdale. [e] Pat. 25 Edw. III. [f] Hiſtory of Windſor, p. 104. [g] His mother was one of the four daughters and coheirs of Sir Thomas Wheate bart. by the daughter and coheir of Thomas Gould eſq.

Percy Lodge, in the month of July 1754, when it was inherited by her daughter, the Ducheſs of Northumberland. The duke, her huſband, ſold it to Sir John Coghill, of whoſe relict, the Counteſs of Charleville, it was purchaſed in 1786, by Mr. Sullivan.

In the pariſh church is a monument, in memory of Sir George and Sir Edward Salter, ſucceſſively carvers to King Charles I. with the effigies of Mary Lady Salter, (wife of Sir George,) riſing from her coffin in a ſhroud. There is alſo the monument of John King, who was killed in his own houſe in 1604, by his kinſman, Roger Parkinſon, who in a drunken fit ſtuck a ſhoe-maker's awl into his forehead. The lay rectory of Iver, to which a manor is annexed, was given by King Edward III. to the church of Windſor, and came again to the crown by exchange. It was purchaſed of the Leigh family, who had been a conſiderable time in poſſeſſion, by Thomas Bernard eſq. treaſurer of the foundling hoſpital, who in 1800 ſold it to the preſent proprietor, Mr. Sullivan, who is patron of the curacy. Mr. Bernard had a ſeat at Iver, now the property of Edward Bury eſq.

Robert Bowyer, about the middle of the laſt century, founded a free-ſchool at Iver, and endowed it with a ſum of money, which produces an income of about 21*l. per annum.*

*Thorney* is the principal hamlet in this pariſh; Riſkins, Sutton, Shredding-Green, Griſt, Bengers, Delaford, and Huntſmore, are in the pariſh. An act of parliament, for incloſing the pariſh of Iver, paſſed in 1800, when an allotment of land was aſſigned in lieu of the impropriate tithes, the lay rector being entitled to the vicarial as well as the great tithes: a ſmall allotment near the workhouſe was aſſigned for the uſe of the poor. The pariſh is ſtated in the act to contain 2462 acres.

IVINGHOE, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, is a ſmall market-town, 33 miles from London by way of King's Langley, and 32 by way of Watford: it lies near the ancient Ikeneld-Street. A market at this town, on Thurſdays, was granted to the biſhop of Wincheſter, in 1318: the preſent market-day is Saturday, but the market is ſo ſmall that it may be almoſt ſaid to be diſcontinued. A fair on St. Margaret's-day was granted in 1227, another on the aſſumption of the Virgin Mary, by the charter of 1318: the preſent fairs are May 6th, and October 17th. The manor of Ivinghoe was given by Edward the Confeſſor to the ſee of Wincheſter; biſhop Poynet ſurrendered it to the crown. It was reſtored to biſhop White, but reaſſumed by Queen Elizabeth, who granted it, together with the profits of the market and fairs, to Sir John Maſon: having again reverted to the crown, it was given to Lord Keeper Egerton, and is now the property of his deſcendant, the Earl of Bridgewater.

Berryſted-Houſe, in this pariſh, is ſaid to have been the ſeat of Henry de Blois, biſhop of Wincheſter, brother of King Stephen; it is now a farm-houſe, belonging to the Earl of Bridgewater.

In the pariſh church, which is a handſome Gothic building, are ſome memorials of the family of Duncombe, who had a ſeat in this pariſh, called Barley-end Houſe, now the property and reſidence of their repreſentative, Mrs. Lucy. On the north ſide of the chancel is an ancient altar-tomb, with an effigies of the deceaſed, ſaid to have been that of a brother of King Stephen, meaning perhaps Henry de Blois, biſhop of Wincheſter: Browne Willis ſuppoſes it to be the tomb of Peter Chaceport.

The great tithes were appropriated to the monaſtery of Aſheridge, in 1413: they are now the property of the Earl of Bridgewater, who is patron of the vicarage.

The principal hamlets in this pariſh are *Aſton*, where was formerly a chapel dedicated to St. James, *Wardhurſt*, *Ringshall*, *Clipperſdown*, and *St. Margaret's*. At the latter, which is a populous hamlet, containing about three-ſcore houſes, and is diſtant about five miles from the town of Ivinghoe, are the remains of the monaſtery of Mureſley, founded by Henry de Blois, biſhop of Wincheſter, in the reign of Henry I. for nuns of the Benedictine order, and dedicated to St. Margaret. Its revenues were valued in the reign of Henry VIII. at 14l. 3s. 1d. The ſite, with the manor, or reputed manor, of Mureſley, was granted, almoſt immediately after the diſſolution, to Sir John Dance: it has been lately ſold by Mr. George Catherall, in whoſe family it has been during ſeveral generations, to Mr. Mercer, of Long-acre. The building was, in 1802, almoſt entire: the parlour and hall, which are of Totternhoe ſtone, appear to be of the age of Henry VII.

GREAT-KIMBELL, or KIMBLE, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about three miles to the ſouth-weſt of Wendover. The manor belonged in the fourteenth century to Sir Walter Upton knt. whoſe only daughter and heir having married the ſecond ſon of Sir Reginald Hampden, it continued many years in this branch of the Hampden family, who afterwards, on a failure of iſſue from the elder branch, ſucceeded to the Great-Hampden eſtate. About the year 1730, this manor was ſold by truſtees, acting on behalf of the Hampden family, (under an act of parliament, paſſed in 1726,) to Sarah, Ducheſs of Marlborough, and by her given to her grandſon, John Spencer. From him it deſcended to the preſent Earl Spencer, who, in 1803, ſold it to Mr. Rickford, by whom it was conveyed the ſame year to the preſent proprietor, Scrope Bernard eſq. together with two ſubordinate manors in the pariſh, called Marſhall's and Fennell's-Grove, *alias* Whityngams. Theſe manors, which compriſe the hamlets of Marſh and Kimbell-wick, were purchaſed

by the Hampdens at an early period, and have ſince paſſed with the ſuperior manor, which in ſome old writings is called Upton's.

An act of parliament, for incloſing this pariſh, paſſed in 1803, when allotments of land were made to Mr. Bernard, and other impropriators of the great tithes, which formerly belonged to Miſſenden abbey. The parſonage houſe and chancel are now veſted in Mr. Bernard. Lord Hampden is patron of the vicarage, which in 1799 was conſolidated with Great-Hampden.

LITTLE-KIMBELL or KIMBLE, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about three miles to the ſouth-weſt of Wendover. The manor, which was formerly in the Hampdens, paſſed by a female heir, about the year 1553, to Sir George Pawlet, whoſe grandaughter, Elizabeth, brought it in marriage to Oliver St. John, ſon and heir of Oliver Lord St. John, of Bletſoe, who, jointly with his wife, ſold it about the year 1600, to Richard Waller eſq. of Coleſhill, in the pariſh of Amerſham. After this, the manor of Little-Kimble paſſed by ſale to the families of Serjeant and Bracy, and by inheritance or marriage to the families of Croke and Ledwell. In 1792 it was purchaſed of William Bridges Ledwell eſq. of Woodperry, in the county of Oxford, by Scrope Bernard eſq. of Nether-Winchenden, the preſent proprietor, who has been laying out grounds with an intention of building at this place.

The advowſon of the rectory has been for more than a century in the family of Chapman: the preſent rector is both patron and incumbent. An act of parliament paſſed in 1803, for incloſing this pariſh, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes: the woodlands ſtill continue titheable.

KINGSEY, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about three miles weſt of Thame. The manor, during a great part of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, was in the family of Marney. At a later period it was in the Spillers, and paſſed in marriage, with the daughter and ſole heir of Sir Robert Spiller, to the Herberts of Tythorp, (a hamlet of this pariſh, ſituated in Oxfordſhire,) a younger branch of the Herberts, Earls of Pembroke. It is now in moieties, one of which belongs to Mrs. Anne Herbert, a maiden lady, ſiſter and coheir of Philip Herbert eſq. the laſt heir male of this branch of the family, who died in 1749; the other moiety paſſed in marriage to Philip Lord Viſcount Wenman, father of the late Lord, and is now by bequeſt the property of Miſs Bertie. The manſion, ſometimes called Kingſey, and ſometimes Tythorp-Houſe, is the ſeat of Mrs. Herbert.

The church, which was formerly a chapel of eaſe to Haddenham, is now a diſtinct vicarage, in the gift of the dean and chapter of Rocheſter, to whom the great

great tithes are appropriated. The leaſe of the tithes has long been veſted in the Herbert family, who have frequently, as leſſees, preſented to the vicarage.

LANGLEY, called in old writings LANGLEY-MARIES or MARYS, lies in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, about two miles and a half to the north-weſt of Colnbrock, a part of which is in this pariſh. The manor came to the crown in the reign of Edward I. by reaſon of the minority of Ralph Plaiz, couſin and heir of Aveline Mountfichet, and though afterwards claimed by Elizabeth, Counteſs of Oxford, as heir of the ſaid Ralph, was retained by the crown till the year 1447, when it was granted to Eton College [h]. Having by ſome exchange, as is ſuppoſed, reverted to the crown, it was granted for life to Henry Norris, in 1523, and to John Duke of Northumberland, in 1564. In 1626, it was granted in fee to Sir John Kederminſter, whoſe family had been long reſident in the pariſh. His only daughter and heir married Sir John Parſons, of Boveney, whoſe ſon William, being then deſcribed as of Langley, was created a baronet in 1661, and was anceſtor of the preſent Sir Mark Parſons bart. of Epſom, in Surrey. The executors of Sir William Parſons, the firſt baronet, ſold Langley in 1669, to Henry Seymour eſq. whoſe ſon of the ſame name was created a baronet in 1681. His couſin and heir, Sir Edward Seymour bart. ſold it in 1714 to Lord Maſham, of whom it was purchaſed in 1738, by the late Duke of Marlborough. An act of parliament paſſed in 1755, for re-building the houſe at Langley-park; it is now the property and ſeat of Sir Robert Bateſon Harvey bart. who bought the park and manor in 1788, of the preſent Duke of Marlborough.

The Duke of Somerſet conveyed Parlaunt-park, in Langley, to Sir Thomas Heneage, in 1549. It has been mentioned under Iver, that the manor of Leving, *alias* Parlaunt-park, is partly in Iver, and partly in this pariſh: the houſe is in Langley. This eſtate was in the Pagets, and is now the property of Lord Boſton.

Sir Richard Hobart had a ſeat at Langley, to which his brother-in-law, Dr. Henry King, biſhop of Chicheſter, retired during the protectorate of the Cromwells.

Langley has a parochial chapel, (ſubject to the mother church of Wyardiſbury,) in which are memorials of the family of Kederminſter. The Kederminſter aiſle is ſeparated from the nave by a Gothic ſcreen, executed by Coade of Lambeth, and erected in 1792, at the expence of Sir R. B. Harvey. In this aiſle is the monument of the late David Harvey eſq. who died in 1788, put up by his nephew, the preſent lord of the manor of Langley, who inherited a conſiderable part of his fortune, and has taken the name of Harvey in addition to that of Bateſon.

At the ſouth end of this chapel, ſeparated by an ancient ſcreen, is a ſmall library,

[h] Rot. Parl. Vol. v.

conſiſting

conſiſting chiefly of books of divinity, left for public uſe, by Sir John Kederminſter, with an expreſs injunction that no book ſhould ever be taken out of it. The great tithes, which belonged to the church of Windſor, were lately purchaſed under the act for the redemption of the land-tax, by Mr. Naſh of Upton. They are ſubject to a payment of 20l. *per annum* to the vicar. The dean and chapter are patrons of the vicarage.

There are two alms-houſes at Langley, one of them was founded by Sir John Kederminſter for ſix poor perſons, each of whom receives a weekly allowance of about two ſhillings and ſixpence. The other alms-houſe was founded for two poor men and two women, by Henry Seymour eſq. whoſe nephew, Captain Henry Seymour, in 1733, bequeathed the ſum of 200l. to purchaſe lands for its better ſupport. The alms-people in this houſe, who receive two ſhillings and ſixpence a week each, are appointed by truſtees, of whom the vicar is one. There are three overſeers for the pariſh of Langley, one for the diſtrict of Weſtmoor, one for Huntſmore, and one for Colnbrook.

The north ſide of Colnbrook, excepting two houſes, which are in Iver, is in this pariſh. This town, which lies on the Bath road, at the diſtance of 17 miles from London, takes its name from the ſmall river Coln: it has been ſuppoſed by ſome to have been the *Pontes* of Antoninus. The town was incorporated in the year 1543, by the ſtyle of Bailiff and Burgeſſes: a market on Tueſdays, and two fairs, were granted by the ſame charter. Two other fairs were granted in 1613, and the town had a new charter of Incorporation in 1632. The market has been diſcontinued above twenty years: the fairs, which were held on Lady-day, St. Mark, St. James, and St. Simon and St. Jude, are now reduced to two, which are held on the 5th of April and the 3d of May.

An ancient chantry chapel at Colnbrook, which continued to be uſed for divine ſervice after the reformation, was endowed in 1682, by George Townſend eſq. with a moiety of the rents of certain tenements in Cradle-alley, Drury-lane. Mr. Townſend directs by his will, that the donative of this chapel ſhall be conferred, when void, on one of his exhibitioners at Pembroke College, in Oxford, who had been educated at Crypt ſchool, in Glouceſter. The chapel was removed from its old ſite in Langley pariſh, about the year 1790, and rebuilt on the oppoſite ſide of the road in the pariſh of Horton.

LATHBURY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies a mile north of Newport-Pagnell, near the road to Northampton. There are two manors in this pariſh, one of which, called the Abbey-manor, paſſed by a female heir from the family of Bidun to the Gatiſdens, who gave it in the year 1272 to Lavendon-abbey.

At

At the reſtoration it was granted, together with the impropriate tithes and the advowſon of the curacy or donative, to Chriſt-Church College, in Oxford. The other manor was alſo in the Biduns, and afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Albini, Sadelyng, Stanes, and Vaux: on the attainder of Lord Vaux, it was given to Sir Ralph Haſtings, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the noble family of Grey. It was ſold by William Lord Grey, to the Marquis of Northampton, and by him to the family of Cave, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Newdegates and Hampdens. The Andrewes family became poſſeſſed of it by purchaſe about the year 1599; Henry Andrewes eſq. of Lathbury, was created a baronet in 1661; the title is extinct. The manor is now in moieties, between Manſell Dawkins Manſell eſq. and Mrs. Margaret Dalway, under the will of Mrs. Jane Symes, whoſe mother purchaſed of the repreſentatives of the Andrewes family. Mr. Manſell has lately built a new houſe, in which he reſides, on the ſite of a manſion, which was erected in or about the reign of James I. by Sir Wm. Andrewes knt. In the church are ſome memorials of the Andrewes family. The late learned Dr. Chelſum, who diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a defender of Chriſtianity againſt the attacks of Gibbon the hiſtorian, had for ſome time the donative of Lathbury, which is, as before obſerved, in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Chriſt-Church. The college always grants the incumbent a beneficial leaſe of the great tithes.

Anthony Cave founded a grammar-ſchool at Lathbury, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and endowed it with 12l. *per annum*, for a maſter to be nominated by Chriſt-Church College, and gave two exhibitions of 6l. each to the ſcholars, one of whom was to be of Chriſt-Church. This endowment has been loſt: the ſchool-houſe was pulled down in 1698, and the materials uſed in repairing the curate's dwelling.

Lavendon, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Bedfordſhire, nearly three miles north-eaſt of Olney; it had formerly a market on Tueſdays, granted in 1248 to Paulinus Peyvre, together with a fair on the feſtival of the aſſumption of the Virgin Mary[1]. The market has been long diſcontinued; a ſmall fair is held annually on the Tueſday before Eaſter. In this pariſh was an abbey of Premonſtratenſian monks, founded in the reign of Henry II. by John de Bidun, a baron, in honour of St. John Baptiſt. Its revenues were eſtimated, when it was diſſolved in the reign of Henry VIII. at 79l. 13s. 8d. clear yearly value. The ſite, together with the abbey manor, was granted in 1544 to Sir Edmund

[1] Cart. 33 Hen. III.

Peckham,

Peckham, who had for ſome years been leſſee under the crown, and afterwards to Sir Rowland Heywood. About the year 1676, it was purchaſed by the father of Dr. Newton, founder of Hertford College, in Oxford, who made the ſite of the abbey his reſidence. There are no remains of the conventual buildings, which, by the report of the commiſſioners, appear to have been in ruins in 1534, before the monaſtery was diſſolved. The Abbey-manor, or grange, is now the property of the Rev. Simon Adams, whoſe father, Knightly Adams eſq. married Jane, the daughter and heir of Dr. Newton.

The Caſtle-manor is ſo called from a caſtle, which probably was the ſeat of the ancient baronial family of Bidun, by whom the abbey was founded: it was afterwards ſucceſſively in the Peyvres and Zouches; of the latter it was purchaſed in 1527, by Lord Mordaunt, whoſe deſcendant ſold it, about the year 1630, to the Comptons: it is now the property of Farrer Grove Spurgeon Farrer eſq. whoſe grandfather, William Farrer eſq. purchaſed it of the Comptons. There is a farm-houſe on the ſite of the caſtle, of which there are no other remains than a moat, and ſome veſtiges of buildings. It appears by an ancient inſtitution to the vicarage of Lavendon, now in the regiſtry of the biſhop of Lincoln, that the caſtle was ſtanding in the year 1232, ſince it is ſtated in the record of the inſtitution, that the abbot of Lavendon was bound to provide a chaplain, to officiate in the chapel of St. Mary, in Lavendon-caſtle.

The manor of *Uphoe*, a hamlet of this pariſh, has been ſome time in the Farrer family, and is now the property of F. G. S. Farrer eſq. The manor, or reputed manor of *Snellſon*, another hamlet of this pariſh, on the confines of Bedfordſhire, was ſold by the Mordaunts, to the Comptons, of whom it was purchaſed by the father of Charles Cheſter eſq. the preſent proprietor. The manor, or reputed manor of *Adderſey*, in this pariſh, now the property of Philip Skeen eſq. was purchaſed of Lord Hinchinbroke, (now Earl of Sandwich:) it had belonged ſome time before to the Earl of Halifax.

In the pariſh church is the monument of Dr. Newton above-mentioned, and memorials for others of his family. The pariſh of Lavendon has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1801, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the vicar, in lieu of the vicarage, and a portion of the great tithes to which he was entitled: allotments were aſſigned alſo to the Earl of Dartmouth, Mr. Farrer, and Mr. Cheſter, in lieu of their ſeveral portions of tithes, which had formerly been appropriated to the abbey. The vicarage is in the gift of Gerard Noel eſq. who inherited the advowſon, with other eſtates from his uncle, the late Earl of Gainſborough.

LEE, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Windſor, lies about three miles to the ſouth-weſt of Wendover. The manor is the property of Henry Deering eſq. in right of his wife, heireſs of the family of Plaiſtowe, for whom there are ſome memorials in the pariſh church, formerly a chapel of eaſe to Weſton-Turville. James Oldham Oldham eſq. is patron of the donative, as proprietor of Miſſenden-abbey and its demeſnes. Lee was dependant on that monaſtery at the time of the reformation, and divine ſervice was performed there by one of the monks: when Miſſenden-abbey was diſſolved, he had an addition to his penſion aſſigned him in conſideration of his continuing to ſerve the cure.

LEKHAMSTED, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about three miles and a half to the north-eaſt of the county town. The manor was anciently in the Chaſtillons, who held it under the honor of Mandeville; before the year 1398, it paſſed, by purchaſe, to the Gernons, and from them deſcended, by female heirs, to the Tilneys and Greenways: Sir Anthony Greenway ſold it, about the year 1631, to the Pyes. Sir Edmund Pye of Lekhamſted, who was created a baronet in 1641, was ſucceeded in this eſtate by his daughter, the Hon. Catherine Weſt; on her death it became the property of her niece Martha, ſiſter of the laſt Lord Lovelace, who married Lord Henry Beauclerk. It is now the property of their ſon, the Rev. Henry Beauclerk, who is alſo patron and incumbent of the rectory. Mr. Beauclerk has another eſtate in this pariſh, called Heyborne-fields manor, which, having been for a conſiderable time in the family of Greene, about the middle of the ſixteenth century, became the property of the Wentworths of Lillingſtone-Lovell, and paſſed from them, by a female heir, to the Creſſwells. Mrs. Creſſwell bequeathed it to Mr. Beauclerk's mother.

The manor, or reputed manor of Lekhamſted-Parva, *alias* Lymes-end, with Naſt-end, belonged to the Tyrells as early as the middle of the ſixteenth century, and is claimed by their repreſentative, Thomas Sheppard eſq. of Thornton, who gives a deputation for the manor. Samuel Athawes eſq. has alſo given a deputation for the manor of Lymes-end, as poſſeſſor of an eſtate at this place, purchaſed of the Tyrrells.

In the church is a tablet, very rudely executed, to the memory of Sir Anthony Greenway the elder, who died in 1619.

LILLINGSTONE-DAYRELL, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies nearly five miles to the north of the county-town. The manor belonged anciently to the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, from them it paſſed, by female heirs, to the Bolbecs

Bolbecs and Veres, under whom, as lords of the fee, it was held, at a very early period, by the ancient family of Dayrell, who came over with William the Conqueror. They ſettled at Lillingſtone before the year 1200, and before 1306, became poſſeſſed of the fee of the manor, which has ever ſince continued in the family by lineal deſcent in the male line, being now the property of Paul Dayrell eſq.

In the pariſh church is the monument of Dorothy Haddon, (of the Dayrell family,) mother of Dr. Walter Haddon, one of the maſters of requeſts in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who employed him in various embaſſies. We are told that he was in great eſteem for his eloquence and learning. Some of his works are extant, among which is a volume of Latin Poems. He was the author of numerous epitaphs on eminent perſons of his time: that on his mother, in Lillingſtone church, is not a very favourable ſpecimen of his poetical talents. In this church are ſeveral memorials of the Dayrells, the moſt ancient is the tomb of Paul Dayrell, who died in 1491; the lateſt, that of Richard Dayrell eſq. who died in 1801, being the thirty-firſt male heir of the family. Mr. Dayrell is patron of the rectory.

LINCHLADE, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies on the borders of Bedfordſhire, about two miles north-weſt of Leighton-Buzzard. It had formerly a market on Thurſdays, granted to William de Beauchamp in 1251. A fair was granted by the ſame charter, to be held for eight days at Lady-day. About that time there was a great reſort of pilgrims, and frequent proceſſions made to a holy well at Linchlade, which were prohibited in 1299, by a mandate of Oliver Sutton, biſhop of Lincoln, who ſeverely cenſures ſuch reſort to a *profane* (meaning, it is probable) an unconſecrated place. The vicar, who, for his own emolument, had encouraged theſe pilgrimages, was cited to appear in the biſhop's court. The mandate is printed in Gunton's Hiſtory of Peterborough [a].

The manor of Linchlade was anciently in the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford, from whom it paſſed, by a female heir, to the Mowbrays. It was held under them by the family of Lucy, from whom it paſſed, by marriage, to the Corbets. Sarah, widow of Sir Vincent Corbet bart. being poſſeſſed of this manor, was created Viſcounteſs Linchlade, in 1675: the title was limited to her life. Linchlade is now the property of Andrew Corbet eſq. The great tithes, which were given by Simon de Beauchamp, to the priory of Chickſand, are now the property of Mr. Corbet, who is patron of the donative. In the pariſh church is the monument of Major Charles Shipman, who died in 1797, at the age of 98.

[a] P. 341.

GREAT LINFORD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies nearly three miles to the ſouth-weſt of Newport Pagnell. In the reign of King John, the manor belonged to Geffrey de Gibwen, ſome time one of his majeſty's juſtices-itinerant. It was afterwards in the Pipards, from whom it paſſed to the Botelers. Upon the attainder of James Boteler, Earl of Wiltſhire, King Edward IV. granted this manor to Richard Middleton eſq. and his heirs male [b]. It ſoon reverted to the crown, and was granted in 1467, to the Princeſs Elizabeth [c], who became the queen of Henry VII. It ſeems to have been afterwards reſtored to the St. Legers, as repreſentatives, in the female line, of the Botelers, for it appears that Sir George St. Leger exchanged it for other lands, with King Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Richard Campion and John Thompſon. It was purchaſed of the Thompſons, about the year 1632, by Sir Robert Napier, whoſe heirs ſold it about 1679, to Sir William Pritchard, alderman of London. By his bequeſt, it became the property of his relation [d], Thomas Uthwatt eſq. Upon the deceaſe of Mrs. Uthwatt, lady of the manor, in 1800, it devolved to the Rev. Henry Uthwatt Andrewes, who has ſince taken the name of Uthwatt, which is to be aſſumed by his iſſue male, when they ſhall ſucceed and come into actual poſſeſſion of the eſtates, deviſed by the will of his godfather and relation, Henry Uthwatt eſq. of Great Linford, bearing date 1757.

In the pariſh church is the monument of Sir William Pritchard above-mentioned, who died in the year 1704. He was preſident of St. Bartholomew's hoſpital, where he erected a convenient apartment, at his own expence, for performing the operation of cutting for the ſtone. He founded an alms-houſe at Great Linford, for ſix poor men, who receive from his endowment an allowance of 1s. 6d. each weekly, and a ſchool, with a ſalary of 10l. *per annum* for the maſter. Mr. Uthwatt is patron of the rectory.

Dr. Richard Sandy, *alias* Napier, who was preſented to this rectory in 1589, was a very remarkable character: he was ſon of Sir Robert Napier, of Luton Hoo, in Bedfordſhire, and having been inſtructed in phyſic and aſtrology, by the celebrated Dr. Simon Forman, commenced the profeſſion of thoſe ſciences, in conjunction with the cure of ſouls: his practice as a phyſician became very extenſive, it being given out that he held converſations with the angel Raphael, by means of which, he prognoſticated with certainty, the death or recovery of his patients. This procured him great credit in a ſuperſtitious age, and he was reſorted to by perſons of the firſt

[b] Pat. 1 Edw. IV. [c] Pat. 7 Edw. IV. [d] It has been ſaid that Sir William Pritchard bequeathed this eſtate to St. Bartholomew's hoſpital; but it appears by the will, that the bequeſt to that hoſpital was only in the event of a failure of heirs, according to the entail.

rank

rank and conſequence. It appears by a paſſage in Howell's Familiar Letters, that the Earl of Sunderland (lord preſident of the north) was under his care for ſome months, at his houſe at Linford, in 1629. It was ſaid of this empiric divine, that he was ſo devout, that his knees grew horny by much praying, and that he died in that poſture, at a great age, in the year 1634. His burial is thus entered in the pariſh regiſter, "April 15, 1634. Buried, Mr. Richard Napier, rector, the moſt renowned phyſician both of body and ſoul." Dr. Napier's papers came into the hands of Mr. Aſhmole, and are now in the muſeum at Oxford.

LITTLE LINFORD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles to the north-weſt of Newport-Pagnell. The manor was anciently in the Pagnells, from whom it paſſed, by female heirs, to the families of Somery, Botetort, Burnell, and Bermingham. Having been purchaſed of the laſt-mentioned family, by the Botelers, it paſſed with Great Linford, till about the year 1658, when it was purchaſed of the Thompſons, by Kilpin and others, and by them ſold to an anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, the Rev. Primat Knapp, who is patron of the curacy.

The church of Little Linford, now a ſeparate pariſh, was formerly a chapel of eaſe to Newport-Pagnell, and was given by the Pagnells to Tickford Priory. The inhabitants of Little Linford bury their dead at Haverſham, excepting the family of the lord of the manor, for whom there are ſome monuments in the church.

LOUGHTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies three miles ſouth-eaſt of Stony-Stratford, near the great road to London. The manor was in the family of Ardres, from 1358 to 1414, afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Ruſhby, Lucy, Hopper, and Crane. In 1655 it was ſold, together with the manor of Little Loughton, (which had been ſucceſſively in the families of Wolverton, Loughton, Edy, Pigot, and Crane,) to the Holts, who continued poſſeſſed of them till within theſe few years. They are now the property of Mr. Swan. The demeſnes of the manor of Great Loughton were ſold to the Alſtons, and by them, about the year 1699, to the Hanſlapes. They are now, by deſcent, the property of Mr. Gee, of Newport.

In the church are ſome memorials for the family of Crane. The maſter and ſcholars of Trinity College, in Cambridge, are patrons of the rectory. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1768, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

LUDGERSHALL, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about ſix miles and a half from Biceſtre, in Oxfordſhire, and nearly twelve miles north-

north-weſt of Ayleſbury. There was formerly an alien hoſpital or priory at this place, ſubordinate to the priory of Santingfield, in Picardy. Upon the confiſcation of the property of alien priories, this hoſpital, with its lands, was given by King Henry VI. to Trinity College, in Cambridge.

The manor of Ludgerſhall was anciently in the baronial family of Traylly. William de Luder, biſhop of Ely, who died ſeiſed of it in 1297 [e], held it by leaſe for a term of years, under the Trayllys [f]. In 1335, it was granted by King Edward III. to Sir John Molins, and it is probable that it paſſed, with his other eſtates, to the families of Hungerford and Haſtings. At a later period it was in the Borlaſe family, from whom it paſſed, by a female heir, to the Warrens. It is now the property of the Rev. Claudius Martyn, whoſe mother (relict of the late profeſſor of botany, at Cambridge,) purchaſed it in 1784, of the preſent Sir John Borlaſe Warren K. B. Mr. Martyn is patron alſo of the rectory, and incumbent.

The pariſh of Ludgerſhall has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1777. An allotment was given in lieu of tithes to the rector. Two-thirds of the tithes of this pariſh belonged formerly to the prior and convent of Bermondſey, having been given to that monaſtery by Geffrey de Traylly, in 1190 [g].

*Kingswood* and *Tetchwick* are hamlets of this pariſh: Kingſwood maintains its own poor.

The manor of Tetchwick was in the year 1614, divided between the three coheireſſes of Sir William Hawtrey. Sir Henry Croke, who married one of theſe coheireſſes, ſold his ſhare in 1615, to Robert Jenkinſon, citizen and Merchant-Taylor, whoſe deſcendant, Sir Robert Jenkinſon bart. conveyed it in 1703, to Edward Mitchell: after ſome intermediate conveyances, it is now the property of Mr. Hollier, who gives a deputation for the manor.

GREAT MARLOW, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, diſtant about 31 miles from London, has been a market town by long preſcription, as appears from its ancient name of Chipping-Marlow. It ſent members to parliament as early as the year 1299, but after the year 1308, this ancient privilege was diſuſed till 1622, when it was reſtored by act of parliament. The right of election is in the inhabitants paying ſcot and lot: the government of the town is veſted in conſtables, who are the returning officers. In the year 1599, John Rotheram, of Seymours, in this pariſh, left the ſum of 40l. towards procuring a charter of incorporation, and reviving a market to be kept weekly, the profits of which ſhould

[e] Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 331. [f] Placit, &c. in Com. Bucks, in Turr. London, No. 7. [g] Manning's Surrey, Vol. I. p. 196.

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be veſted in the corporation; but his intention never took effect. The market, which appears to have been then diſcontinued, has been revived, and is held on Saturdays. In 1324, Hugh de Spencer had a grant of a fair at Marlow. There are now two fairs held, on the ſecond and third of May, and the 29th of October. The latter is a great fair for horſes. The town and pariſh of Great Marlow, according to the returns made to parliament, under the population act in 1801, then contained 643 houſes, of which 26 were uninhabited. The number of inhabitants was 3236, of whom 1436 were males, 1800 females: the number of perſons employed chiefly in agriculture, was 236, and thoſe in trade, manufacture, and handicraft, 306.

The manor of Marlow, which had belonged to the Earls of Mercia, was given by William the Conqueror, to his Queen Matilda. Henry the Firſt, beſtowed it on his natural ſon, Robert de Melhent, afterwards Earl of Glouceſter, from whom it paſſed, with that title, to the Clares and Deſpencers, and from the latter, by female heirs, to the Beauchamps and Nevilles, Earls of Warwick. It continued in the crown from the time of Richard the Third's marriage with Anne Neville, till Queen Mary granted it to William Lord Paget, in whoſe family it continued more than a century; after which, it paſſed, by purchaſe, to Sir Humphrey Winch, in 1670; to Lord Falkland in 1686; to Sir James Etheridge in 1690; to Sir John Guiſe in 1718; and to Sir William Clayton in 1736. It is now the property of Sir William Clayton bart. a deſcendant of the laſt purchaſer.

Harleyford, the ſeat of Sir William Clayton, was formerly a diſtinct manor, belonging to the family of Cawood. It was annexed to the manor of Marlow, by the firſt Lord Paget, who made it one of his ſeats. His great grandſon, William Lord Paget, reſided here during the civil war. Harleyford has continued to be the reſidence of the ſubſequent proprietors of the manor, moſt of whom have repreſented the borough of Marlow in parliament. Sir James Etheridge was one of its members during the whole of King William's reign. The old manſion, which was very ſpacious, was pulled down in the year 1755; and the preſent houſe, which ſtands in a ſingularly beautiful ſituation on the banks of the Thames, was then built, after a deſign of Sir Robert Taylor.

The manor of Widmer, in this pariſh, belonged to the knights templars, and after the diſſolution of their order, to the knights hoſpitallers. After the reformation it belonged for ſome time to the Widmers, an ancient family, who ſeem to have taken their name from the place, and it is probable, had been tenants under the hoſpitallers. About the year 1634, it was purchaſed by the Borlaſes, from whom it paſſed, by marriage, to the Grenvilles. The late Earl Temple ſold it, about the year 1747, to Mr. Moore, of whom it was purchaſed in 1766, by William Clayton

eſq.

eſq. father of Sir William Clayton bart. who is the preſent proprietor. Part of the manor-houſe (now a farm) is very ancient. The chapel has been converted into a brew-houſe.

The manor of Seymours, in this pariſh, belonged to the noble family of that name, and was given by them in exchange, to the dean and chapter of Briſtol, under whom it was ſucceſſively held on leaſe, by the Willoughbys of Wollaton, and the Earls of Powis. They reſided occaſionally in the manor-houſe, till the great civil war, when it was nearly deſtroyed. The leaſe continued in the Powis family till after the death of the Marquis of Powis, in 1748. It is now veſted in Mr. Johnſon.

Court-Garden, the ſeat of Richard Davenport eſq. belonged to the noble family of Paget, and was reſerved by them long after the manor had been alienated. In 1748 it was ſold by Henry, Earl of Uxbridge, to Dr. Battie, an eminent phyſician, who built the houſe.

The pariſh church of Marlow is a ſpacious Gothic ſtructure, and has a wooden ſpire, erected in 1627: between the nave and chancel, is a ſcreen of chalk, with Gothic tracery. A neat baptiſtry was fitted up, and a new marble font given by the late vicar, Dr. Cleobury. The moſt remarkable monuments are thoſe of Sir Miles Hobart, one of the members for this borough, who was killed by the overturning of his coach, as it was going down Holborn-hill, in 1632; and Katherine, wife of Sir William Willoughby, who was ſheriff of the county in 1603. There are ſome memorials for the families of Clayton, Chaſe, &c. In the chancel are a few braſs plates, one of which commemorates ſome children of Sir John Saliſbury, who died in 1383.

The rectory was appropriated by John Ruſſell, biſhop of Lincoln, in 1494, to the abbot and convent of Tewkſbury, after the diſſolution of which monaſtery it was given to the dean and chapter of Glouceſter, together with the advowſon of the vicarage. Part of the ancient rectorial houſe ſtill remains, the great hall is now uſed as a kitchen. The ſum of 8ol. *per annum* is paid to the vicar out of the impropriation. Mrs. Hawes, in 1749, gave a rent-charge of 10l. *per annum* to the vicar. Mr. Drewe gave 20l. *per annum* for a lecture on Tueſdays or Thurſdays. This lectureſhip has been uſually held by the vicar. Anthony Ellys, biſhop of St. David's, was vicar of Marlow from 1729 to 1753.

The book of church-wardens' accounts in this pariſh, makes mention of a ſum of money, diſburſed for throwing in the bulwarks about the church and in Duck-lane, and cleaning the church after the ſoldiers had been quartered in it, in 1642. This was, when the parliamentary army, under the command of Major-General Brown, was quartered at Marlow. The ſum of five ſhillings appears to have been

paid to the ringers, when the unfortunate monarch paſſed through the town as a priſoner, in 1647.

Sir William Borlaſe founded a free-ſchool in Marlow, in the year 1624, for 24 boys, three of whom are to be of Medmenham, three of Little-Marlow, and the remainder of this town. The maſter has a ſalary of 16l. *per annum*, a houſe, garden, and a large paſture field. An apprentice fee of 40s. is given to each boy when he leaves the ſchool. Sir William founded alſo a houſe of correction, and a ſchool for 24 girls, who were to be taught to ſpin, ſew, and make lace, but this inſtitution has not been kept up.

John Brinkhurſt, in 1608 founded alms-houſes for four poor widows, two more have ſince been added, out of the ſavings of the eſtate, which now produces 42l. *per annum*. There are ſeveral other benefactions belonging to the town, the moſt important is that of 1000l. left by Mr. Loftin in 1759, for the purpoſe of apprenticing poor children.

There has been a bridge over the Thames at Marlow from a very early period. Mention is made of it in a record of the reign of Edward III. Part of Marlow bridge was deſtroyed by General Brown, when his army was quartered in the town in 1642, in conſequence of which, parliament iſſued a warrant for a county rate to repair it. The preſent bridge, which is of wood, was built by ſubſcription in the year 1789.

The ſecond department[h] of the Royal Military College, a more particular account of which will be found under High-Wycombe, has been for ſome years placed at Great Marlow; where it is intended to remain till the building about to be erected for the whole eſtabliſhment, at Sandhurſt, in Berkſhire, ſhall be completed.

LITTLE-MARLOW, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies two miles to the north-eaſt of Great-Marlow. At this place was a ſmall convent of Benedictine nuns, ſaid to have been founded by Geffrey Lord Spencer, before the reign of King John, in honor of the Virgin Mary. Its revenues were valued in 1534, at 23l. 3s. 7d. *per annum:* it was then given to Biſham Abbey. The general diſſolution of monaſteries followed within a few years, when the ſite of the convent at Marlow was granted to Tytley and Reſtwold. Browne Willis deſcribes the chapel and hall of this nunnery, as remaining in his time. The hall, which was 60 feet in length, was pulled down in 1740. There are now no remains of the conventual buildings.

[h] Intended for the inſtruction of thoſe who, at an early age, are deſigned for the military profeſſion.

The manor of Little-Marlow, which had belonged to the nunnery, after paſſing, within a ſhort period, through ſeveral hands, was purchaſed about the year 1560, by the family of Borlaſe, who had a ſeat here, and another at Bockmer, in the pariſh of Medmenham. The elder branch of this family became extinct, by the death of Sir John Borlaſe bart. in 1688. His daughter married Arthur Warren eſq. whoſe great-grandſon, Admiral Sir John Borlaſe Warren bart. K. B. ſold the manor of Little-Marlow in 1781, to the guardians of William Lee Antonie eſq. M. P. the preſent proprietor, then a minor.

The manor of Danvers, in this pariſh, ſo called from an ancient family who poſſeſſed it in the thirteenth century, is now alſo the property of Mr. Lee Antonie. A manor in Little-Marlow, (perhaps the ſame) was formerly in the Mowbrays and Berkeleys: it was given, with other eſtates, by the Marquis of Berkeley, to Sir Reginald Bray [a].

Weſtthorp-houſe, the ſeat of Thomas Wilkinſon eſq. was built by James Chaſe eſq. member for Marlow, in the reigns of King William and Queen Anne: it was rented of his widow by Dr. Maddox, biſhop of Worceſter, and was afterwards the ſeat of Sir Everard Faukener, Ambaſſador to the Porte, and one of the poſt-maſters-General.

In the pariſh church is an altar-tomb, with braſs plates, for Nicholas Ledwich, founder either of the church or chancel, as appears by his epitaph. He died in 1430. There are ſome memorials alſo for the families of Chaſe and Warren.

In ancient times the benefice of Little Marlow was in medieties, and the church was ſerved alternately by two rectors. In 1342, the great tithes were appropriated to the priory: they are now the property of Mr. Lee Antonie, who is patron of the vicarage. The preſent vicar is the Rev. Thomas Martyn, regius profeſſor of Botany in the univerſity of Cambridge.

MARSH-GIBWEN, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about four miles and a half to the eaſt of Biceſter. It received its additional name from the ancient family of Gibwen, who were of conſiderable conſequence in the county, in the thirteenth century, and had eſtates in this pariſh. The principal manor was given by Robert, Earl of Cornwall, to the abbey of Greſtein, in Normandy. About the year 1365, having been ſeized by the crown as the property of an alien monaſtery, it was granted to the De la Poles. William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Alice, his wife, gave it to the hoſpital of Ewelm, in Oxfordſhire, the maſterſhip of which was annexed in 1603 to the

[a] Rol. Parl. VI. 529.

Regius profeſſorſhip of phyſic, in the univerſity of Oxford, in whom, jointly with the grammar-maſter and thirteen poor men, the manor is now veſted, but all the buſineſs relating to it, is tranſacted in the name of the two chaplains and thirteen poor men[k]. Near the manor-houſe are ſome ſlight traces of entrenchments, ſuppoſed to have been thrown up by the parliamentary army, when they marched to Marſh-Gibwen, in the month of June 1645[l].

The Bury-manor, or manor of Weſtbury, in this pariſh, belonged alſo to the abbey of Greſtein, (by grant from the Montacutes.) Having eſcheated to the crown, as the property of an alien houſe, it was given by King Edward IV. to the Company of Cooks, in London, who ſold it, in 1530, to Robert Dormer: it has ſince paſſed through ſeveral hands, and is now the property of Mr. Dixon. The advowſon of the rectory belonged formerly to the Abbey of Greſtein, it is now in the crown.

FLEET-MARSTON, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about three miles from Ayleſbury, on the road to Biceſter. The manor, which was for many years in the Lees, has been lately purchaſed of their repreſentative, Lord Dillon, by James Dupré eſq. of Wilton Park. The advowſon of the rectory being then the property of John Tirrel-Morin eſq. was advertiſed for ſale in the month of May 1805.

NORTH-MARSTON, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies nearly four miles ſouth of Winſlow. The manor is held under Magdalen College, in Oxford; the leaſe is now veſted in Francis Waſtie eſq. his firſt wife having been repreſentative of the Saunders family, who were for many years leſſees. The church is a handſome Gothic ſtructure; there is a tradition that the chancel was built with the offerings at the ſhrine of Sir John Schorne, a very devout man, of great veneration with the people, who was rector of North-Marſton about the year 1290, and it is ſaid, that the place became populous and flouriſhing in conſequence of the great reſort of perſons to a well, which he had bleſſed. This ſtory ſtands upon a better foundation than moſt vulgar traditions; the great tithes of North-Marſton are ſtill appropriated to the dean and canons of Windſor, who, before the reformation, might without difficulty have rebuilt the chancel, as it is very probable they did, with the offerings at the ſhrine of Sir John Schorne, for we are told that they were ſo productive, that on an average they amounted to 500l. *per annum*[c], (equal at leaſt to 5000l. according to the preſent value of money.) Sir John Schorne,

[k] From the information of Sir Chriſtopher Pegge M. P. R.

[l] See Heath's Chronicle, p. 77.

[c] Hiſtory of Windſor, p. 111.

therefore, although his name is not to be found, appears to have been a ſaint of no ſmall reputation. The common people in the neighbourhood ſtill keep up his memory by many traditional ſtories: Browne Willis[d] ſays, that in his time there were people who remembered a direction-poſt ſtanding, which pointed the way to Sir John Schorne's ſhrine.

Mr. Nield, leſſee of the great tithes under the church of Windſor, is patron of the curacy. The pariſh was incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1778, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the impropriator, in lieu of tithes, and a ſmall allotment to the poor for fuel.

MARSWORTH, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about ſeven miles eaſt of Ayleſbury, on the borders of Hertfordſhire, part of which county is nearly ſurrounded by Buckinghamſhire. Sir John Cobham having ſurrendered the manor of Marſworth to King Edward III. that monarch gave it to his ſhield-bearer, Thomas Cheney[e], anceſtor of the Cheneys of Drayton-Beauchamp, it reverted not long afterwards to the crown by ſurrender or exchange. King Richard II. granted it to the family of Brian, who, about 1570, ſold the whole, or a part of it, to the Weſts. There are now three manors; Marſworth-De la Hay, the property of Mrs. Henrietta Seare; in whoſe family it has been many years; Marſworth *cum* Goldington, the property of Sir Drummond Smith bart. who purchaſed it of Charles Orlando Gore eſq. of Tring Park; and another manor belonging to St. Thomas's hoſpital.

In the pariſh church are ſome monuments of the families of Weſt and Seare. The laſt heir male of the Weſts died in 1700. On an altar-tomb belonging to this family, is an engraved braſs plate, on which is repreſented a man in armour, lying on a bed, Death ſtriking him with his dart, his wife and children kneeling by the bedſide, and a divine in his canonicals at the foot of the bed.

The great tithes of this pariſh are veſted in the maſter and ſcholars of Trinity College, in Cambridge, who are patrons of the vicarage. Sir Drummond Smith is leſſee of the great tithes under the college.

MEDMENHAM, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies about three miles from Marlow, on the road to Henley. At this place was an abbey of Ciſtercian monks, founded by Hugh de Bolebec, as a cell to the larger monaſtery of Woburn, which was alſo of his foundation. The royal charter was not obtained till the year 1200, which was after the founder's death. Its revenues, which conſiſted chiefly of the manor and rectory of Medmenham, were valued

[d] See his MS. Collections in the Bodleian Library. [e] Pat. 38 Edw. III.

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in 1536, at 20l. 6s. 2d. *per annum.* The abbey, with its poſſeſſions, was then given to the abbot and convent of Biſham; the general diſſolution of monaſteries, taking place ſhortly afterwards, the manor of Medmenham, and the ſite of the abbey, were granted in 1547, to Thomas and Robert Moore; this eſtate was conveyed by the Moores in 1558 to the family of Duffield, who reſided at the abbey, and continued in poſſeſſion till 1778, when the ſite of the abbey was purchaſed by John Morton eſq. chief juſtice of Cheſter, and was ſold by his widow, in 1786, to the preſent proprietor, Robert Scott eſq. Browne Willis ſpeaks of part of the north aiſle of the conventual church, as ſtanding in his time; part of a ſingle column only is now to be ſeen. Some buildings, in imitation of ruins, have been of late years erected on the ſite of the abbey, and are now almoſt overgrown with ivy.

Danesfield, the ſeat of Robert Scott eſq. ſo called from an ancient circular entrenchment of that name near the houſe, was the property of John Morton eſq. above-mentioned. It ſtands in a beautiful ſituation, on a bank which over-hangs the river.

The manor of Brock, or Medmenham, which was retained by the founder, paſſed by female heirs to the families of Vere, Warren, Fitz-alan and Beauchamp. It was afterwards in the Poles; and after having been ſeveral times forfeited and reſtored, was given, in 155[illegible], to the Rices, of whom it was purchaſed, in 1560, by John Borlaſe eſq. Having paſſed with Little-Marlow, to Sir John Borlaſe Warren K. B. it was ſold, in 1781, to the guardians of William Lee Antonie eſq. the preſent proprietor. The Borlaſes had a ſeat at Bockmer, in this pariſh, now a farm.

An eſtate in Medmenham, called Whittington farm, was forfeited to the crown in the reign of Charles I. and at the inſtance of Archbiſhop Laud given to the univerſity of Oxford, for the maintenance of ſcholars from the iſlands of Guernſey and Jerſey: it is now held on leaſe by Sir William Clayton, at a reſerved rent of 20l. *per annum.*

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the Duffields. The impropriation of the great tithes, and advowſon of the vicarage, have paſſed with the abbey eſtate, and are now the property of Mr. Scott. The vicar has the great tithes of 500 acres of land. At *Hallowick*, near Wood-end, a hamlet of this pariſh, was formerly a chapel.

MENTMORE, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about eight miles to the north-eaſt of Ayleſbury. The manor was anciently in the families of Buſſel and Zouche: in 1490 it was granted to Sir Reginald Bray, from whom it deſcended, by a female heir, to the family of Sandys: in 1729, it was

purchaſed with the manor of Leadbourne, by Lord Viſcount Limerick, of a Mr. Legoe, who inherited them from the family of Wigg. They are now the property of Richard Bard Harcourt eſq. who purchaſed them of Lord Limerick's ſon, James Earl of Clanbraſſil. In the church are ſome memorials of the families of Theed and Wigg.

The impropriate rectory, which was given by the Buſſells to the priory of St. Bartholomew, in Smithfield, is now the property of Mr. Harcourt, who is patron of the vicarage.

MIDDLETON, or MILTON-KEYNES, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about four miles ſouth of Newport-Pagnell, and about a mile out of the road from that town to London. It acquired its additional name from the ancient family of Keynes, who poſſeſſed the manor. William de Keynes, Lord of this manor, was the perſon who took King Stephen priſoner, at the battle of Lincoln. From him this eſtate paſſed by female heirs to the families of Ayleſbury and Stafford. It was purchaſed of the latter by Lord Chancellor Nottingham, from whom it deſcended to the preſent proprietor, George Earl of Winchelſea and Nottingham.

In the pariſh church is the tomb of Lewis Atterbury, rector of this pariſh, who died in 1693. He was father of the celebrated biſhop Atterbury, who was born at Milton-Keynes on the 6th, and baptized on the 17th of March, 1662, as appears by the pariſh-regiſter.

The Earl of Winchelſea is patron of the rectory. Dr. Wotton, a learned critic and antiquary, was rector of this pariſh, from 1693, till his death, which happened in 1726; his Reflections on Ancient and Modern Learning were written at Milton, the year after he became poſſeſſed of the rectory.

GREAT-MISSENDEN, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about half-way between Wendover and Amerſham, on the road to London. At this place was an abbey of black canons, the hiſtory of the foundation of which is involved in ſome uncertainty. An inquiſition taken on oath, in the year 1331, ſtates that it was founded in 1293, by Sir William de Miſſenden[f]; although it might be ſuppoſed that there could be little doubt of the authority of ſo ſolemn a record of a fact, then ſo recent, yet there is good reaſon for ſuppoſing that the abbey exiſted at an earlier period. An old regiſter of the convent dates its foundation in 1133[g]. An ancient court-book of the manor ſays that it was founded by the Doyleys, and augmented by the Miſſendens, purſuant to a vow, made on eſcaping from ſhip-

[f] Dugdale's Monaſt. I. 542. [g] Tanner.

wreck.

wreck. It is probable therefore that the benefactions of Sir William de Miſſenden, in 1293, were of ſuch importance, and the former income of the convent ſo ſmall, that it was looked upon as a ſecond foundation, and that he was even in his own time called and deemed the founder, as biſhop Rotheram is even now called the ſecond founder of Lincoln College, in Oxford. Sir William de Miſſenden, among other benefactions, gave the manor of this place to the abbey, and his family were its patrons. The patronage was afterwards in the Brudenells[h]. The revenues of Miſſenden abbey were eſtimated, in 1534, at 261l. 14s. 6¼d. clear yearly value. It appears that John Otewell, the laſt abbot, upon quitting the monaſtic life, renounced the ſtate of celibacy, for by his laſt will, bearing date 1558, he makes his wife margaret Otewell, *alias* Weſtwick, ſole executrix, and bequeaths legacies to his ſon Samuel, and his daughter Lettice. The abbot had a penſion of 50l. *per annum* aſſigned him, at the diſſolution of the monaſtery; Thomas Barnard, one of the monks, had the vicarage of Miſſenden given him in lieu of a penſion; John Slythurſt had a penſion of 8l. *per annum*, on condition of undertaking to officiate at the chapel of the Lee. The ſite of Miſſenden abbey, with the manor of Miſſenden and other lands, were granted on leaſe to Richard Greneway, and afterwards to Richard Hampden eſq. clerk of the king's kitchen. In 1553, the fee was granted to John Duke of Northumberland, and in 1573, (having reverted to the crown by the duke's attainder) to Robert Earl of Leiceſter. Not long afterwards, this eſtate was purchaſed by Sir William Fleetwood, recorder of London, an antiquary and hiſtorian, who made Miſſenden abbey his reſidence. It continued in his male deſcendants till the beginning of the laſt century, after which, it paſſed by female heirs to the families of Anſell and Gooſtrey. After the death of the late Thomas Gooſtrey eſq. it was purchaſed under a decree of chancery, in the year 1787, by the preſent proprietor, J. Oldham Oldham eſq. by whom the houſe has been modernized, and nearly rebuilt. Browne Willis mentions[i] ſome arches belonging to the conventual buildings, which appeared to have been part of the Chapter-houſe. Theſe arches, or a part of them, have been uſed in forming a receſs at each end of a green-houſe. They have groined roofs, with rich ornaments in the center. The pillars have ſcalloped capitals.

Peterley-Houſe, in this pariſh, an ancient ſeat of the Dormer family, is ſtill the property of Lord Dormer, but has not been inhabited by the family for many years. It is now occupied as an academy. Lord Dormer gives a deputation for his lands

[h] Collins's Peerage. [i] See his MS. Collections.

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in Peterley and Stone. Mr. Oldham alſo gives a deputation for the manor of Peterley and Stone, which belonged to Miſſenden abbey, and for the manors of Netherbury and Overbury, which were alſo part of their poſſeſſions. Netherbury was granted to the abbey in 1383.

The pariſh church of Miſſenden is a handſome Gothic building. On the north ſide of the chancel, about ſeven feet from the ground, is a row of pointed arches, with ſmall pillars, detached from the wall. There are ſeveral monuments of the family of Boys, one of which exhibits a buſt of the deceaſed, under a circular arch, compoſed of books. Among ſome ancient braſs plates, which in 1801 had been removed, during the repairs of the chancel, was, one of Thomas Clement, Woolman, and Butcher, 1445. Mr. Oldham is impropriator of the great tithes, which belonged to Miſſenden abbey, and patron of the vicarage.

John Randal, an eminent divine in the reign of James I. was a native of this place.

LITTLE-MISSENDEN, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about two miles from Great-Miſſenden, and three from Amerſham, on the road to London.

The manor of Beaumont and Afflecks, in this pariſh, and a manor, which belonged formerly to Miſſenden abbey, are now the property of Lord Curzon, by inheritance from the Penns. The manor of Maunſells, in this pariſh, derives its name from an ancient family, who poſſeſſed it in the reign of Henry III. It has of late years paſſed with Shardeloes, and is now the property of Mr. Drake. The manor of Holmer belonged to the Longeſpees, Earls of Saliſbury, and paſſed, by a female heir, to the Lacys, Earls of Lincoln; it was afterwards given to Burnham abbey: being in the crown in the reign of James I. it was granted in 1623, to Edward Ramſey, whoſe relation, the Earl of Holderneſs, ſold it to the Styles; it paſſed afterwards, by a female heir, to the family of Harris, and having ſince undergone two or three alienations, is now the property of Lord Curzon. The manor of Thorne-Fee, or Brand-Fee, in this pariſh, which extends to Wycombe heath, was many years in the family of Brand, who poſſeſſed it as lately as the year 1791: it is now the property of John Field eſq. The Earl of Stirling had a ſeat at Little-Miſſenden, in the early part of the laſt century.

In the pariſh church are ſome monuments of the family of Style of Holmer. Lord Curzon has the impropriation of the great tithes, which belonged to Miſſenden abbey, and is patron of the vicarage.

MAIDS-

MAIDS-MORTON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about a mile north of the county town. The principal manor of this place belonged anciently to the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, from whom it paſſed to the noble families of Clare, Audley, and Stafford. The Marquis of Buckingham claims this paramount manor, to which no lands are annexed, as lord of the honour of Glouceſter.

The manor of Greenhams, in this pariſh, took its name from a family who poſſeſſed it in the reign of Henry IV. Not long afterwards, it became veſted in the crown, and was granted, in 1442, to All Souls College, in Oxford. Another manor in this pariſh belonged to Oſney abbey, and was granted, after the reformation, to Chriſt's Church College, in the ſame univerſity. Both theſe manors were for many years on leaſe to the family of Bate. Edward Oakley Gray eſq. is the preſent leſſee of Greenhams; the marquis of Buckingham, of the Chriſt-Church manor, the leaſe of which was purchaſed of Samuel Churchill, in 1802.

George Moore eſq. of Maids-Morton, was created a baronet in 1665: the title became extinct at his death.

The pariſh church is a handſome Gothic ſtructure, built about the year 1450, by ſome of the Peyvre family, who poſſeſſed the advowſon. The tradition is, that it was built by two maiden ſiſters, daughters of the laſt heir male of the Peyvre family, and that the village was thence called Maid's-Morton. The porch and the belfry have groined roofs: in the chancel are three elegant ſtone ſtalls, with rich Gothic canopies. There are ſome memorials of the family of Bate: the celebrated Dr. George Bate, who was chief phyſician to King Charles I. Oliver Cromwell, and King Charles II. was born at Maids-Morton, where he was baptized Nov. 23, 1607: his father was rector of the pariſh.

The advowſon of the rectory was for many years in the Peyvres, and their heirs, the Broughtons; at a later period, in the family of Bate; it is now the joint property of the Rev. James Long Hutton (who is the preſent rector) and his brother, Francis Turner Richard Hutton Long eſq. their father purchaſed of the Sandwells.

The pariſh regiſter records the circumſtance of the croſs having been cut from the top of the ſteeple, in 1642, by Col. Purefoy's ſoldiers, (then quartered in Buckingham,) and the firmneſs of the rector, Matthew Bate, who, in defiance of the orders of parliament, chriſtened children during the whole of the protectorate of Cromwell, and performed the marriage ceremony according to the rites of the church of England.

This parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament, passed in 1801, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector, in lieu of tithes, and an allotment to the poor in lieu of furze.

MULSO, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Bedfordshire, about three miles south-east of Newport-Pagnell. The manor was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham; afterwards successively in the families of Cowdray, Talbot, Whittingham, and Verney. Being vested in the crown, (probably by an exchange,) it was annexed to the honor of Ampthill, and afterwards granted to Sir John Spencer, from whose family it passed by marriage to the Comptons. It is now the property of Lord Carrington, who purchased it in 1801, of the Earl of Northampton, together with the advowson of the rectory, which formerly belonged to the priory of Goring. An act of parliament, for inclosing the parish, passed in 1802, when an allotment was given in lieu of tithes to the rector, and a deduction made from it, in consideration of its being exonerated from poor-rates: the parish was estimated to contain 1600 acres.

MURESLEY, in the deanery of that name, and in the hundred of Cotslow, lies about four miles nearly west of Winslow: it had formerly a market on Thursdays, granted to the prior of Snelshall, in 1230. Warren Fitzgerald had another charter for a market on Wednesdays, in 1243, and a fair on the festival of the assumption of the Virgin Mary. This charter was renewed to John Duke of Bedford, who had a grant of another fair on the nativity of the Blessed Virgin. Both the market and fairs, which have now been long discontinued, were again renewed to Robert Whittingham, in 1449.

The manor was anciently in the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, afterwards in the Fitzgeralds, from whom it passed, by a female heir, to the family of Nowers.

The manor of Salden, which seems to have included that of Muresley, having been seised by the crown on the attainder of Sir Robert Tresilian, was granted, in 1402, to John Duke of Bedford [a], on whose death it was sold by the king to Cardinal Beaufort: in 1439, it was conveyed to Robert Whittingham, squire of the household [b], and confirmed to him by the king's patent in 1449 [c]: after this the manors of Muresley and Salden appear to have been separated: Sir Ralph Verney, who inherited both from the Whittinghams by female descent, sold Salden about the year 1580 to Sir John Fortescue, from whose family it passed by marriage to the family of Gage: it is now the property of Lord Eardley, who purchased it of

[a] Pat. 4 Hen. IV. [b] Rol. Parl. VI. 317. [c] Pat. 28 Hen. VI.

his

his brother-in-law, Lord Gage: Mureſley continued to be the property of the Verneys, nearly a century longer, having been purchaſed by the Forteſcues in the year 1664.

Salden-houſe, which has been pulled down ſeveral years, was a noble manſion, built by Sir John Forteſcue, chancellor of the exchequer, who was honoured with a viſit here by King James I. ſoon after his acceſſion to the throne. The coſt of the building is ſaid to have been about 33,000l. Sir John Forteſcue, who died in 1656, was created a baronet of Nova Scotia: the title became extinct on the death of Sir Francis Forteſcue, in 1729.

In the pariſh church are monuments of Sir John Forteſcue, chancellor of the exchequer, who died in 1607; Sir Francis Forteſcue, K. B. and others of the family. Lord Eardley is patron of the rectory.

NEWENTON, or NEWTON-BLOSSOMVILLE, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Bedfordſhire, about four miles weſt of Olney. The manor paſſed from the Bloſſomvilles, who poſſeſſed it at the time of the Norman ſurvey, by female heirs, to the families of Druel and Swinford. The noble family of Stafford were lords of the manor at a later period, till the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham, after which, it was granted to Walter Devereux, Earl of Eſſex. Being again veſted in the crown, it was granted to Thomas Crompton, who ſoon afterwards conveyed it to Lord Mordaunt. In 1649, it was purchaſed of the Mordaunt family, by an anceſtor of the late William Farrer eſq. whoſe grandſon, Farrer Grove Spurgeon Farrer eſq. of Cold Brayfield, is the preſent proprietor, and patron of the rectory.

NEWENTON, or NEWTON-LONGUEVILLE, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles and a half to the ſouth-weſt of Fenny-Stratford. An alien priory of Cluniac monks, ſubordinate to the priory of Longueville, in Normandy, was founded at this place in the reign of Henry I. and ſuppreſſed in 1415. In 1442, King Henry VI. gave the priory and moſt of its lands (among which was the manor of Newenton, given to the priory by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham) to the warden and ſcholars of New College, in Oxford.

The pariſh church was rebuilt by the college, ſoon after they became poſſeſſed of the manor, and advowſon of the rectory. At the eaſt end of the chancel, on the outſide, is a figure of St. Faith, to whom the priory was dedicated. In the chancel are two *piſcinæ*, on one of which are the arms of William of Wickham, the founder

of New College, and ſome other coats. The learned Grocyn, tutor to Eraſmus, was rector of this pariſh.

NEWPORT-PAGNELL, which gives name to the hundred and deanery in which it ſtands, is 51 miles diſtant from London, on the road to Northampton. It has been a town of conſiderable conſequence, from a remote period: the aſſizes for the county were occaſionally held here, from the reign of Henry III. to that of Henry VI. A market at Newport-Pagnell was either originally granted, or confirmed by charter, in 1270, to Roger de Somery, together with a fair for eight days, to commence on the feſtival of St. Luke: the market was again confirmed to John Botetort, in 1333[d]: the market-day is Saturday. There are now ſix fairs, held annually; February 22, April 22, June 22, Auguſt 29, October 22, and December 22.

In the early part of the civil war, between King Charles and the parliament, Newport was garriſoned by Prince Rupert; but on the approach of the Earl of Eſſex, not long after the firſt battle of Newbury, in 1643, it was abandoned by Sir Lewis Dyve[e], and taken poſſeſſion of for the parliament, to whom it proved a very uſeful garriſon, during the remainder of the war. Sir Samuel Luke, ſuppoſed to have been the Hudibras of Butler, was its governor in the year 1645, when the ſum of 80l. a month was voted by parliament, for the ſupport of the garriſon.

At the time of the Norman conqueſt, Newport was the property of William Fitzanſculf, a powerful baron, anceſtor of the Paganells or Pagnells, who gave their name to the place. From them it paſſed, by female heirs, to the families of Somery, Botetort, Burnell, and Bermingham. Of the latter, it was purchaſed by the Botelers. This manor having become veſted in the crown, on the attainder of James Boteler, Earl of Wiltſhire, was granted, in 1462, to Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick[f], and in 1471, to George Duke of Clarence. It was afterwards reſtored to the St. Legers, as being repreſentatives of the Botelers in the female line. In 1627, this manor, which had been again veſted in the crown, by an exchange with the St. Legers, was granted to Sir Francis Anneſley, whoſe family had been ſettled at Newport, as early as 1558. Arthur Anneſley was created, in 1661, Baron Anneſley, of Newport-Pagnell, and Earl of Angleſey. From him the manor of Newport deſcended to its preſent proprietor, the Earl of Mount-Norris. The profits of the market and fairs have always been annexed to the manor.

The Paganells had a caſtle at Newport, the ſite of which is ſtill called the Caſtle-mead; but there were no remains of the building even in Camden's time.

[d] Pat. 7 Edw. III.
[e] Clarendon's Hiſtory, 8vo. edit. II. 392, and Heath's Chronicle, p. 55.
[f] Pat. 2 Edw. IV.

Fulk

Fulk Paganell, in the reign of William Rufus, founded a cell of Cluniac monks at Tickford, adjoining to this town, and gave them the manor of that place. This houſe was ſubordinate to the abbey of St. Martin, *Majoris Monaſterii*, commonly called Marmonſtiers, at Tours, and was ſeized as an alien priory, by King Edward III. during the wars with France. It was reſtored by King Henry IV. and made ſubject to the priory of the Holy Trinity, in York. King Henry VIII. ſuppreſſed this monaſtery in 1525, (its revenues being then eſtimated at 126l. 17s. *per annum*,) and gave it, with all its lands, to Cardinal Wolſey. After the Cardinal's fall, it was given to Chriſt Church college, in Oxford, but afterwards reſumed by the crown. It is ſaid to have been ſold by King James I. to Dr. Atkins, his phyſician; it is more probable that it was given him as a remuneration for his attendance, in Scotland, on his ſon, Prince Charles, when he recovered of a dangerous fever; for which we are told that he was amply rewarded, and offered a baronet's patent, which he refuſed. The priory was one of the ſeats of his poſterity, who were afterwards baronets by a patent, bearing date 1660: their chief reſidence was at Clapham, in Surrey. Tickford Abbey is now the property of Mr. Hooton: there are no remains of the conventual buildings. Mr. Hooton's family have a burial place in a retired part of the garden belonging to their dwelling-houſe, which is ſuppoſed to have been the cemetery of the priory: an obeliſk has been erected there, in memory of the late Mrs. Hooton.

Tickford Park, and the manor of Tickford-end, were ſold by the Atkins' family to the Uthwatts, and by them to Sir William Hart: it is now the property of Mr. Vanhagen, in right of his wife, whoſe firſt huſband purchaſed it of the heirs of Sir William Hart.

The manor of *Caldecot*, (a hamlet of this pariſh,) which belonged alſo to the priory of Tickford, was ſold by the Atkins' family, in 1758, to William Backwell eſq. a banker in London. Mr. Backwell, in 1769, bequeathed it to William Harwood, who has aſſumed the name of Backwell, and is the preſent proprietor.

The pariſh church, which is a ſpacious Gothic edifice, contains no monuments of note. In the church-yard is the following epitaph, written by Cowper, the poet, on Thomas Abbott Hamilton, who died July 7, 1788.

" Pauſe here, and think a monitory rhime
Demands one moment of thy fleeting time.
Conſult life's ſilent clock; thy bounding vein
Seems it to ſay, health here has long to reign?
Haſt thou the vigour of thy youth? an eye
That beams delight? a heart untaught to ſigh?

Yet

"Yet fear; youth oftimes healthful and at eaſe
Anticipates a day it never ſees,
And many a tomb, like Hamilton's, aloud
Proclaims, prepare thee for an early ſhroud."

W. COWPER.

The great tithes, which were given by Fulk Paganell to the priory of Tickford, now belong to the Earl of Mount-Norris and Mr. Vanhagen. The vicarage is in the gift of the crown. The vicar is always maſter of an ancient hoſpital, originally founded by John de Somery, and dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt and St. John the Evangeliſt, in the reign of Edward I. and refounded by Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I. for a maſter, three poor men, and three poor women. Its revenues were rated, in 1534, at 6l. 6s. 8d. *per annum*. The rents are now about 70l. *per annum*. Portfield, in Newport Pagnell, was incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1794: the tithes were to continue as before, but power was given to perſons entitled to them, to take a compenſation either in land or otherwiſe. A cloſe in North Crawley was given, by a benefactor now unknown, to the widow of the vicar of this pariſh: when there is no vicar's widow living, the profits are appropriated to the apprenticing of poor children.

In the year 1240, which was before the foundation of St. John's hoſpital abovementioned, there were two hoſpitals at Newport-Pagnell, called St. Margaret's and the New Hoſpital, of which we have no later accounts. Dr. Lewis Atterbury, (brother of the biſhop of Rocheſter,) who was born at *Caldecot*, gave the ſum of 10l. *per annum* to a ſchool-miſtreſs, for teaching 20 girls to write, read, and few plain work.

Mr. John Revis, in 1763, founded and endowed ſeven alms-houſes (for four poor men and three women) who receive 10l. *per annum* each, beſides clothes and fuel.

OAKLEY, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about ſeven miles north-weſt of Thame. A manor in this pariſh, which was formerly in the family of Pole, is now the property of the Duke of Marlborough; the manor of Oakley was claimed by the late Mrs. Crewe, as an appendage of her manor of Shabbington, now belonging to her ſon-in-law, Lord Viſcount Falmouth. At the time of the Norman ſurvey, two hides in Oakley were held by a young lady, to whom they had been given by Godic the ſheriff, for teaching his daughter to work gold embroidery.

The manor of *Studley*, a hamlet in this pariſh, which lies partly in Oxfordſhire, is the property of Alexander Croke eſq. a deſcendant of the celebrated Sir George Croke,

Croke, who founded a chapel and hoſpital in the adjoining village of Beckley. Mr. Croke's ſeat is in Oxfordſhire.

In the pariſh church are ſome monuments of the Tyrrells of Oakley, deſcended from Sir Timothy Tyrrell, of Shotover, maſter of the buckhounds to King James I. eldeſt ſon, by a ſecond marriage, of Sir Edward Tyrrell, of Thornton, knt. and half-brother of Sir Edward Tyrrell, who was created a baronet in 1627. Among the monuments of this family at Oakley, are memorials of Sir Timothy Tyrrell, governor of Cardiff Caſtle, and general of the Ordnance for South Wales, who died in 1701, aged 81; his wife Elizabeth, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Archbiſhop Uſher; Captain John Tyrrell of the navy, who died in 1692, having diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his ſervices in the Eaſt Indies, and been made an admiral in thoſe ſeas; and James Tyrrell eſq. author of the General Hiſtory of England, who ſold the family eſtate at Oakley; he was one of the commiſſioners at the peace of Ryſwick, and was buried at Oakley in 1745. In Oakley church alſo is the monument of Baron Schutz, of Shotover, who died in 1757, and others of that family.

The rectory of this pariſh was given by the Empreſs Maud to the canons of St. Frideſwide at Oxford, to whom the great tithes were appropriated: they are now the property of Sir John Aubrey, who is patron of the vicarage.

Oakley was formerly the mother-church of Brill, Borſtall, and Addingrave. The two firſt have been made ſeparate pariſhes. *Addingrave*, ſtill a hamlet of this pariſh, had a chapel of eaſe, which has been ſuffered to fall to ruins.

OKENEY, or EKENEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lay a little to the ſouth of Olney. The village is quite depopulated, not a ſingle houſe remains; its ſite is denoted by ſome broken and uneven ground, but the ſpot where the church ſtood is not known. The manor was ſucceſſively in the families of Somery, Ekeney, and Chamberlayne; of the latter it was purchaſed by Lincoln College, in Oxford, under which ſociety it has been held on leaſe by the families of Norton, Martin, and Park. The leaſe is now veſted in the repreſentatives of the late Robert Pomfret, rector of the neighbouring pariſh of Emberton: the great tithes and advowſon belong to Lincoln College: the land-holders are aſſeſſed to the poor rates of Emberton.

OLNEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies in the north part of the county, near the borders of Northamptonſhire, 56 miles diſtant from London. It has a ſmall market on Mondays, and two annual fairs, Eaſter Monday, and June 29. That on the 29th of June, being the feſtival of St. Peter, was granted in the

year 1315[f]. A fire happened in this town in the year 1786, when forty-three houſes were burnt down. According to the returns made to parliament under the population act in 1801, the town of Olney then contained 451 houſes, of which 444 were inhabited: the number of inhabitants was 2003; of theſe, 872 were males, and 1131 females: ſixty-ſix perſons were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 1928 in trade, manufacture, and handicraft. Lace-making is carried on to a great extent in this town and neighbourhood.

The manor was anciently in the Earls of Cheſter, from whom it paſſed ſucceſſively to the families of Albini and Baſſet. Upon the attainder of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who was one of the co-heirs of the Baſſets, it was granted in 1397 to Thomas Moubray, afterwards created Duke of Norfolk; and upon his baniſhment, the reverſion, after the death of Lady Baſſet, to whom this manor had been aſſigned in dower, was granted to Edward Duke of York[g], who fell at the battle of Agincourt: dying without male iſſue, this manor reverted to the crown, and was not alienated till the year 1638, when it was ſold by King Charles I. to certain citizens of London. It now belongs to the Earl of Dartmouth, having been inherited from his mother, the late Counteſs Dowager, heireſs of Sir Charles Gunter Nicholl, in whoſe family it had been a conſiderable time. The manor of Warrington, a hamlet of this pariſh, which was given by Lord Baſſet of Drayton to the neighbouring abbey of Lavendon, has of late years been held with Olney, to which it had formerly been annexed before Lord Baſſet's donation.

The church is a handſome Gothic building, with a ſtone ſpire, 185 feet in height. There was formerly a chapel in the church-yard, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, in which was a chantry, founded by Lord Baſſet. The great tithes of Olney were appropriated to the abbeſs and convent of Sion. In 1620, Sir Robert Gorges, being then impropriator and patron, endowed the vicarage with a ſtipend of 46l. 13s. 4d. *per annum*, charged on the great tithes, in addition to the ancient ſtipend, which was only 20 marks. The rectory and advowſon were afterwards in the family of Johnſon, from whom they paſſed to the Nicholls, and are now the property of the Earl of Dartmouth. Moſes Browne, author of Piſcatory Eclogues, and other works, who, from the humble occupation of a pen-cutter, roſe by his own merit to the ſtation of a reſpectable divine of the Church of England, was vicar of Olney. Cowper the poet reſided for ſome time at Olney, from whence he removed to the neighbouring village of Weſton-Underwood.

[f] Cart. 9 Edw. II. [g] Pat. 22 Rich. II.

The

The pariſh of Olney has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1767; when an allotment was aſſigned to the impropriator in lieu of tithes and the vicar's ſtipend was increaſed to 70l.

OVING, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Wendover, lies about ſix miles north-weſt of Ayleſbury, and about a mile to the weſt of the road from that town to Buckingham. The manor of Oving was purchaſed, in 1735, of the family of Collins, by Francis Tyringham eſq. after whoſe death it devolved to his elder ſiſter Parnell, wife of Charles Pilſworth eſq. M. P. for Ayleſbury, who reſided at Oving. Some time after Mr. Pilſworth's death it was ſold to the late Richard Hopkins eſq. one of the lords Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, and was bequeathed by him to Colonel Richard Northey, who has ſince taken the name of Hopkins in addition, and has now the rank of major-general. The manor-houſe being ſituated on the brow of a hill forms a conſpicuous object in the vale of Ayleſbury. Another manor in Oving has paſſed with North Marſton, and is now held under Magdalen college, in Oxford, by Francis Waſtie eſq. The rectory is in the gift of the crown.

PADBURY, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about three miles from Buckingham on the road to London. The manor was, till the year 1313, in the deſcendants of Maigno, the Briton, who held it at the time of the Norman Survey: they were barons of Wolverton, near Stony-Stratford, and took their ſurname from that place. In the year 1344, a partition being made between the co-heireſſes of John de Wolverton, this manor was aſſigned to Hugh Wake, who married his daughter Joan[h]. Having become veſted in the crown it was granted, in 1442, to All Souls' college in Oxford, and ſtills belongs to that ſociety. This manor was held under the college for ſome years by the families of Abell and Saliſbury: the leaſe is now veſted in the Rev. James Eyre of Buckingham. The impropriate rectory, at preſent in ſeveralties, belonged to the priory of Bradwell, and after the ſuppreſſion of that houſe, in 1526, was given to the monaſtery of Shene: the vicarage is in the gift of the crown. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1795, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriators and to the vicar.

The gallant Sir Charles Lucas being quartered at Padbury, with a party of the King's troops, in the beginning of July, 1643, defeated a detachment of the parliamentary army under Col. Middleton, who attempted to ſurprize him in his

[h] Placit, &c. de terris in com. Bucks. in Turr. London, No. 16.

quarters. The burial of eight ſoldiers is entered in the regiſter on the ſecond of that month.

A bridge at Padbury was built, by act of parliament, in 1742, and made a county bridge.

PENN, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies about three miles north-weſt of Beaconsfield, and nearly four miles eaſt of High-Wycombe. Penn (as its name, ſignifying the head, or top, implies) ſtands on very high ground: the counties of Berks, Oxford, Bedford, Herts, Eſſex, Kent, Middleſex, Surrey, and it is ſuppoſed ſome parts of Suſſex and Northamptonſhire, may be ſeen from the church tower. About half a mile from the church is a ſpot called Beacon-hill, which it is probable has been formerly uſed as a ſignal poſt. A manor in Penn was from a very early period in the ancient family of that name which became extinct in the elder branch by the death of Roger Penn eſq. in 1735, when this eſtate paſſed by the marriage of his ſiſter and ſole heir to Sir Nathaniel Curzon bart. whoſe grandſon, Lord Curzon, is the preſent proprietor. The greater part of Penn houſe was pulled down about the year 1760; the remainder has been fitted up by Lord Curzon as an occaſional reſidence.

The manor of Segraves, in Penn, now conſidered as the principal manor, belonged, in the reign of Henry II. to the family of Turville. Being veſted in the crown, Edward II. gave it to his brother Thomas de Brotherton, from whom it deſcended to the Segraves, Mowbrays, and Berkeleys. The Marquis of Berkeley gave it, among other eſtates, to Sir Reginald Bray: it afterwards became the property of the Penns, from whom it paſſed, by inheritance, to Lord Curzon. The ſite of Segraves is moated.

The Windſor family had a manor in Penn in the reign of Queen Elizabeth called Bilinges; this is ſuppoſed to be a farm now called Bailing, which has been many years annexed to Lord Curzon's eſtate.

The Baker family had a ſeat in this pariſh, which was ſold by their repreſentative John Baker Holroyd, now Lord Sheffield. By a ſubſequent purchaſe it became the property of baroneſs Howe, relict of the Hon. P. A. Curzon. The houſe is occupied as a ſchool for the ſons of French emigrants, particularly thoſe of the nobility, and of officers who have fallen in the Britiſh ſervice. The eſtabliſhment was inſtituted by government, and originally conſiſted of 60 boys, with a head maſter and three aſſiſtants, but the number has been gradually decreaſing, and the eſtabliſhment will, of courſe, ere long ceaſe.

In the pariſh church are memorials of the families of Penn, Curzon, and Baker. Among theſe is a monument erected in memory of the two firſt wives

of

of Lord Curzon[i], "two as excellent women as ever bleſſed the marriage ſtate." The monument of the Hon. Penn Aſheton Curzon, who died in 1797, is by Bacon. There is a monument alſo for Gen. Haviland, who died in 1784.

The rectory of Penn was given by Lord Segrave to the priory of Chacombe, in Northamptonſhire. King Henry VIII. granted it to Daniel Penn, whoſe wife Sibel was nurſe to King Edward VI. and Queen Elizabeth. It is now the property of Lord Curzon who is patron of the vicarage.

Penn-ſtreet, Knattocks, or Knotty-green, and Forty-green, are in this pariſh.

PETSOE, in the hundred of Newport, which lies about two miles and a half to the ſouth-eaſt of Olney, was formerly a ſeparate pariſh, the manor-houſe of which (together with the manor) belonging to Lincoln college in Oxford, ſtill maintains its own poor, but the poor of Petſoe-end are maintained by the pariſh of Emberton, and the inhabitants attend that church. The church of Petſoe was conſolidated with Okeney; they have both been long ago deſtroyed: there are no remains of Petſoe church, but its ſite is diſcernible. Admiral Rowley has been for many years leſſee of the manor under Lincoln college.

PITCHCOTE, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about ſeven miles north-weſt of Ayleſbury. The manor was in the family of Vernon as early as the year 1377, and continued to be their property in 1557. It was anciently held under the Bohuns, earls of Hereford[k]. In 1603 it was purchaſed of Sir Walter Pye by an anceſtor of Thomas Saunders eſq. who is the preſent proprietor, and patron of the rectory.

PITSTON, anciently PIGHTELSTHORN, in the hundred of Cotſlow and Deanery of Mureſley lies about ten miles eaſt of Ayleſbury and about ſix miles from Dunſtaple, in Bedfordſhire. The chief property of Pitſton was given to the monaſtery of Aſheridge founded at the extremity of this pariſh on the borders of Hertfordſhire, in the year 1283, by Edmund earl of Cornwall. The founder had a palace or caſtle at Aſheridge, the keep of which is to be ſeen not far from the ſite of the monaſtery: either in this palace or in the convent, king Edward I. kept his Chriſtmas in the year 1290, and ſtayed five weeks, during which time he held a parliament at Aſheridge. The chronicle of Dunſtaple priory records the grievances which the inhabitants of that town endured by being obliged to furniſh

[i] Eſther, his firſt wife, daughter of William Hanmer eſq. died in 1764; and Dorothy, ſiſter of the late earl Groſvenor, his ſecond wife, in 1774.

[k] See Pat. 50 Edw. III. part 2.

proviſions for the monarch and his court. The earl of Cornwall died at Aſheridge in the year 1300, having given the manors of Pitſton and Aſheridge to the convent, which conſiſted of a rector and 20 canons of a religious order called Bonnhommes, who wore a blue habit. The founder gave them, amongſt other donations, a portion of Chriſt's blood; in honour of which the convent was founded. This precious depoſit proved a mine of wealth; perſons of all ranks flocking hither from the moſt diſtant parts out of devotion towards ſo ſacred a relic, to the great enrichment of the canons. This pretended blood was publickly ſhewn at Paul's croſs by the biſhop of Rocheſter, on the 24th of February, 1538, and proved to be nothing more than honey clarified and coloured[1]. The lands belonging to the monaſtery of Aſheridge were eſtimated, in 1538, at 416l. 14s. 4d. clear yearly value. The ſite was kept for ſome time in the hands of the crown, and the monaſtery became a royal palace. It was the frequent reſidence of Queen Elizabeth when princeſs, in the reigns of her father and brother; ſhe had a grant of it from her brother in 1552, and was reſiding at Aſheridge when taken into cuſtody by Sir Edward Haſtings, Sir Thomas Cornwall, and Sir Edward Southwell, on ſuſpicion of being concerned in Sir Thomas Wyat's conſpiracy, and, though confined by illneſs, was obliged (ſuch was the ſtrictneſs of their commiſſion) to riſe from her bed and ſet off for London in the Queen's litter. In 1574, Aſheridge, with the lands which had belonged to the convent, was granted in exchange to Dudley and Ayſcough, who acted, it is probable, as truſtees for Henry Lord Cheyne of Toddington, to whom it was immediately conveyed. His widow ſold this eſtate, in 1600, to Sir Randall Crewe and others; by whom it was conveyed, in 1602, to Lord Chancellor Elleſmere, anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, the earl of Bridgwater, who inherits alſo the manors of Morrants, with Narnets and Butlers, in Pitſton. It is probable that theſe are the names of families who held lands under the monaſtery.

The collegiate church, in which lay the remains of Lord Chief Juſtice Bryan, Sir Thomas and Sir John Denham, and other perſons of note, was demoliſhed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The great hall and the cloiſters were entire in the year 1800. The hall, which was 44 feet by 22, had a rich gothic roof, and pointed windows; and was enriched with fluted pilaſters on the ſides. This beautiful ſpecimen of ancient architecture, though to all appearance in good repair, was pulled down by the late duke of Bridgwater, and the materials ſold piece-meal:

[1] Biſhop Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 302.

the cloiſters, which were to have ſhared the ſame fate, were ſtanding in the year 1802 after the demolition of the other buildings, but had ſuſtained conſiderable injury by the pulling down of the adjoining walls. The roof of the cloiſters was of Totternhoe ſtone, wrought with various ornaments, which remained very entire. Among theſe occurred the arms of the founder and thoſe of the monaſtery (a holy lamb ſtanding on the ſepulchre and holding a banner.) The ſide walls were adorned with paintings in freſco, well deſigned, repreſenting the hiſtory of our Saviour. Some of the figures had been well preſerved, but moſt of them had ſuſtained more or leſs injury from the damp. The additions which had been made to the conventual buildings about the reign of Queen Elizabeth, were pulled down alſo by the late duke, who it is ſaid intended building a new manſion on, or near, the ſite of the monaſtery. Aſheridge park is of large extent, well wooded, and abundantly ſtocked with deer. Pitſton church, which is about four miles diſtant from Aſheridge, contains nothing remarkable: it was conſolidated with Ivinghoe in 1684, but the pariſhes continue ſeparate. The great tithes, which belonged to the convent of Aſheridge, are now the property of the earl of Bridgwater, who is patron of the conſolidated vicarages of Ivinghoe and Pitſton.

At *Nettleden*, a hamlet of Pitſton, about ſix miles diſtant from the pariſh church, on the road from Gaddeſdon to Hemel Hempſtead, is a chapel of eaſe, which was conſecrated in 1470. It was the burial place of Sir George Cotton, vice chamberlain to King Edward VI. who died in 1545.

PRESTON-BISSET, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about four miles ſouth-weſt of the county-town. Browne Willis, in his hiſtory of the hundred of Buckingham, ſays, that the Biſſets from whom the village derived its additional name, ſold the manor in the year 1290; that, in the reign of Edward II. it was in the Baddleſmeres, and deſcended from them by female heirs to the families of Tibtoft, Roos, and Manners, but it is ſaid by Dugdale that John Wentworth married the heir of the Biſſets; and that the Wentworths continued in conſequence of that alliance, in poſſeſſion of Preſton-Biſſet ſo late as the reign of King Henry the Fifth. It is certain that King Edward IV. in the year 1477, granted it to Richard Fowler eſq. in conſequence of the attainder of Thomas Lord Roos[m]; and that, on the reverſal of the attainder, this manor (with other eſtates) was reſtored to that nobleman, and paſſed by marriage to the family of Manners, earl

[m] Pat. 7 Edw. IV.

of

of Rutland, of whom Browne Willis ſays it was purchaſed, as he learned, by the Caters about the year 1630. From them it paſſed by marriage to the family of Gibbs, who, in the year 1699, ſold it to Sir Edmund Denton bart. of Hilleſdon. It has ſince paſſed with that manor being now the property of Mrs. Coke, the repreſentative of the Dentons and relict of the late Wenman Coke eſq. of Holkham.

The advowſon of the rectory which had been ſucceſſively in the families of Baleby, Langſton, and Major, was purchaſed by Sir Edmund Denton in 1655. It is now the property of Mrs. Coke. In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the family of Major. This pariſh has been incloſed under an act of parliament paſſed in 1781; when an allotment of land was aſſigned in lieu of tithes to the rector.

QUAINTON, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about ſix miles and a half to the ſouth weſt of Ayleſbury. There are three manors in this pariſh, Denham, Doderſhall, and Shipton-Lee, or Lee-Grange; one of theſe, but it is uncertain which, was, at an early period, in the families of Malet and Muſſenden, and was then known by the name of Quainton-Malet. Denham, to which the advowſon of the rectory was formerly annexed, is now the principal manor. It was many years ago the property and ſeat of the Iwardbys, afterwards of the Wlnwoods, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the noble family of Montagu. It is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Francis Godolphin Oſborne, a younger brother of the Duke of Leeds, to whom it came by bequeſt from the late Lord Godolphin. The houſe is inhabited by a tenant.

Doderſhall belonged, in the reign of King Edward the Second, to a family of that name, afterwards to the Cranfords; of whom, about the year 1500, it was purchaſed by the anceſtor of William Pigott eſq. the preſent proprietor. It was for ſeveral years the ſeat of the dowager Viſcounteſs Say and Sele, who held it in jointure from her ſecond huſband John Pigott eſq.

Shipton-Lee, or Lee-Grange, was for many generations a ſeat of the Dormers; it was afterwards in the Plaiſtowes. About 1766, it became the property of John Calcraft eſq. the army agent; it now belongs to Thomas Quintin eſq. of Hatley-St. George, in the county of Cambridge. At Lee-Grange was a chapel, now demoliſhed.

In the pariſh church is a monument of the learned Orientaliſt Richard Brett, one of the tranſlators of the Bible, and a fellow of Chelſea College, who was rector of Quainton from about the year 1595, till his death, which happened in 1637. The tomb of John Spencer, rector of this pariſh, who died in 1485, has his effigies on a braſs plate of a large ſize in fine preſervation. There are ſeveral monuments of the

the Dormers and Pigotts: among the former is that of Robert Dormer, one of the juſtices of the court of Common Pleas, who died in 1726, with his effigies in white marble, in his robes, and that of his widow in the attitude of a mourner. The monument of Sir Richard Pigott, who died in 1685, is a heavy piece of ſculpture from a deſign of Leoni. In a chapel on the north ſide of the church is the monument of Richard Winwood eſq. (ſon of Sir Ralph Winwood, King James's ſecretary) who died in 1688. He gave, by will, the ſum of 200l. to build eight almshouſes at this place for four widowers and four widows, and endowed them with lands in the pariſh for the payment of two ſhillings weekly to each, and providing them with gowns, &c.

The advowſon is veſted in the repreſentatives of the late rector, Dr. Ekins, who died in 1791, being then dean of Carliſle.

QUARENDON, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about two miles to the north-weſt of Ayleſbury. The great ſtorm of 1570 was ſo deſtructive at this place that Sir Henry Lee is ſaid to have loſt 3000 ſheep, beſides horſes and other cattle[n]. The manor of Quarendon was anciently in the family of Fitzjohn, from whom it deſcended by female heirs to the Beauchamps[o]. On the attainder of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, it was granted, in 1397, to Thomas Mowbray, afterwards Duke of Norfolk; and on his attainder, which followed ſoon afterwards, became again veſted in the crown. In 1512, it was granted to Robert Lee eſq. whoſe family (being a younger branch of the Lees, or Leas, of Lee a townſhip of Wibunbury in the county of Cheſter) had been ſeated at Quarendon as early as the year 1460, and had been for ſome time leſſees under the crown. Sir Edward Henry Lee was created Viſcount Quarendon and Earl of Litchfield, in 1674. The title became extinct in 1776, by the death of the Earl of Litchfield, the laſt heir male of the Lees of Quarendon. The manor was ſold by his repreſentative, Lord Dillon, in 1802, to James Dupré eſq. of Wilton park, in this county. The ancient ſeat of the Lees at Quarendon, was pulled down in the early part of the laſt century.

St. Peter's chapel in Quarendon, which was an appendage to Bierton, was founded by John Farnham about the year 1392. In Queen Elizabeth's time it was rebuilt by Sir Henry Lee: it has been many years diſuſed, and is now much dilapidated. The coſtly monuments of the Lees are in a very mutilated ſtate, and haſtening to total decay: the moſt remarkable are thoſe of Sir Anthony Lee, who was knight of the ſhire and died about the year 1550, and that of his ſon Sir

[n] Holinſhed. [o] Dugdale's Baronage, I. 707.

Henry,

Henry, who died in 1611. The effigies of Sir Henry Lee is in gilt armour: his epitaph is printed in Collins's Peerage. Sir Henry Lee's lady, who was a daughter of the firſt Lord Paget, died in 1584, and lies buried at Ayleſbury, where is a monument to her memory: after her death he cohabited with a lady of the name of Vavaſor, who was buried at Quarendon; where there was formerly a monument to her memory, with her effigies and the following inſcription:

"Under this ſtone entombed lies a fair and worthy dame,
Daughter to Henry Vavaſor, Ann Vavaſor her name:
She living with Sir Henry Lee for love, long time did dwell;
Death could not part them, but here they reſt within one cell."

This monument was defaced after Sir Henry Lee's death, as appears by ſome church notes taken early in the ſeventeenth century, which were in the library of James Weſt eſq. [p]

There are no veſtiges of the hoſpital mentioned in Sir Henry Lee's epitaph. The village of Quarendon is much depopulated, and now contains little more than 50 inhabitants: it is eſteemed a ſeparate pariſh although its chapel was dependant on Bierton.

RADNAGE, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies about ſix miles north-weſt of High-Wycombe. The principal manor called the King's manor, was given by King Henry I. to the Knights-Templars; and on the abolition of their order, was granted, with moſt of their poſſeſſions, to the Knights-Hoſpitallers. After the diſſolution of monaſteries it continued in the crown till the reign of Charles I. who ſold it to certain citizens of London. It was afterwards in the family of Chaſe, from whom it was inherited by the late Dr. Betteſworth, chancellor of the dioceſe of London: it is now veſted in his repreſentatives. Another manor was part of the eſtate of Thomas Chaucer eſq. and paſſed in marriage with his daughter and heir to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. John Duke of Suffolk, and Elizabeth his wife, gave it to the dean and chapter of Windſor, with the king's licence, in 1480. It has been long held under the church of Windſor by the Leighs of Stonely in Warwick: the preſent leſſee is the Hon. Mary Leigh, ſiſter and heir of the late Lord Leigh. The rectory is in the gift of the crown.

RATCLIFFE, or RADCLIFFE, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about a mile and a half weſt of the county-town. The manor belonged in

[p] Copied in Browne Willis's Papers.

ancient

ancient times to the families of Iveri and St. Walery. From the latter it paſſed by a female heir to the family of St. Lis, ſome of whom were knights of the ſhire in the reigns of Edward II. and Edward III.: William of Wickham having purchaſed the manor of this family gave it to his newly founded college in Oxford.

The manor houſe was for ſome time a ſeat of the Dentons, afterwards of Sir William Smith bart. one of the repreſentatives in parliament for the town of Buckingham, who made a park at Ratcliffe. It is now the property of Mr. Henry Smith of Charwelton in Oxfordſhire.

The Marquis of Buckingham has a manor in this pariſh which belonged to the Temples.

This pariſh, which is called in eccleſiaſtical records Radcliffe *cum* Chackmore has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1773, when an allotment was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, and a ſmall allotment to the poor in lieu of their right to cut furze. The rectory is in the patronage of New college. It is probable that *Chackmore*, which is a hamlet of Ratcliffe, had formerly a chapel.

RAVENSTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Northamptonſhire, nearly ſix miles north of Newport-Pagnell, and about three miles weſt of Olney. A priory of Auſtin canons was founded at this place by King Henry III. in the year 1255. It was ſuppreſſed in 1525, and given to Cardinal Wolſey, but afterwards reſumed by the crown, and by three ſucceſſive grants paſſed to Sir Francis Bryan, Sir Robert Throckmorton, and Sir Moyle Finch: the laſt grant was in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and bears date 1591. It is now the property of George Earl of Winchelſea and Nottingham a deſcendant of the laſt-mentioned grantee. There are no remains of the conventual buildings. The manor was anciently in the Giffards and Wahuls; of the latter it was purchaſed by Peter de Chaceport, archdeacon of Wells and maſter of the wardrobe, whoſe ſon Henry gave it to King Henry III. That monarch granted it, with the advowſon of the rectory to his newly founded convent at this place, and it has ever ſince been annexed to the priory eſtate. Ravenſton was for ſome time a ſeat of the family of Finch. The great Lord Chancellor Nottingham was deſcribed as of this place when he was created a baronet in 1660; he attained the higheſt honors of his profeſſion, and was advanced to an earldom. The late learned Mr. Juſtice Blackſtone ſpeaks in the higheſt terms of his abilities and integrity, and calls him a thorough maſter and zealous defender of the laws and conſtitution of his country: his eloquence was held in ſuch eſteem by his contemporaries, that it obtained him the appellation of the Engliſh Roſcius and the Engliſh Cicero. Lord Chancellor

Nottingham died in 1682, and was buried at Ravenſton, where a moſt magnificent monument was erected to his memory by his ſon, with his effigies finely executed in white marble, in his chancellor's robes, reclining under a canopy ſupported by four pillars of black marble of the Corinthian order. The epitaph is printed in Collins's Peerage.

The Earl of Winchelſea is impropriator of the great tithes which belonged to the priory, and patron of the vicarage. Lord Chancellor Nottingham having purchaſed the fee farm rent of the manor of Ravenſton, amounting to 84l. *per ann.* gave it as an endowment for the vicarage. He founded a hoſpital alſo at this place for ſix poor men and ſix poor women, who have a weekly allowance of 3s. 6d. each, and a gown every year. The chancellor alſo gave 10l. *per ann.* towards ornamenting of the church. Mr. Chapman, the late vicar, founded a charity ſchool for all the poor children of this pariſh, for which he intended a large endowment, but it is diſputed in chancery by his heirs; the maſter receives at preſent a ſalary of 12l. *per annum.*

Monks-Risborough, in the hundred of Ayleſbury, lies near Prince's-Riſborough, nearly five miles ſouth-weſt of Wendover. It has been ſaid that there was a cell of Benedictine monks at this place, ſubject to the monaſtery of Chriſt-church, in Canterbury; but of this no evidence has been found. It is certain that the manor was given by Æſchwyn, biſhop of Dorcheſter, to the monks of Chriſt-church. After the reformation it was for ſome time in the Windſor family, afterwards in the Hampdens, from whom it paſſed by inheritance to the preſent Lord Viſcount Hampden.

The church, which is a handſome Gothic edifice, with a ſquare tower, contains no monuments worthy of notice. The archbiſhop of Canterbury is patron of the rectory, which is in his peculiar juriſdiction.

White-leaf Croſs, on the ſide of the Chiltern hills, (ſpoken of in the introduction) is in this pariſh.

Prince's-Risborough, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, is a ſmall town 37 miles diſtant from London, and five miles ſouth-weſt of Wendover. Its market was granted by King Henry III. who gave the townſmen many privileges, ſuch as the being excuſed from attendance at aſſizes and ſeſſions, exemption from toll, &c. There is ſtill a very ſmall market held on Saturday and a fair on the ſixth of May.

The manor was anciently in the families of Giffard and Humet. Having become veſted in the crown, it was given to Richard Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, who died

ſeiſed

ſeiſed of it 1272. King Edward III. granted it in 1333, to Henry Lord Ferrars of Groby. It is ſaid to have been not long afterwards the property of Edward the black Prince, and that he had a palace, ſuppoſed to have ſtood within the ſite of a ſpacious moat now dry, which is in a field adjoining the church-yard. This manor was part of the dower of Catharine, the queen of Henry V. King Charles the Firſt ſold it to certain citizens of London, who, in 1637, conveyed it to the Chibnalls. It was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Abraham, Adeane, Pelham, and Penton. The Pentons acquired it by purchaſe in the year 1692, but they had reſided at Riſborough above a hundred years before that time; for it appears that Queen Elizabeth, after ſhe had left Hampden in her Buckinghamſhire progreſs, called on Mr. Penton at Riſborough [q]. It is now the property of John Grubb eſq. of Horſendon, by whoſe family it was purchaſed of Henry Penton eſq. the preſent member for Wincheſter, about the year 1765. Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, gave the rectory of Prince's-Riſborough to which a manor was annexed, to Nutley Abbey. It has paſſed with the lay-manor ever ſince the time of the Chibnalls. The impropriator is obliged (by the bequeſt of ſome former poſſeſſor, ſaid to have been a maiden lady,) to provide annually a fat bull to be killed, and a boar to be made into brawn, four buſhels of wheat and four buſhels of malt to be made into bread and beer, the whole of which is to be diſtributed amongſt the pariſhioners at Chriſtmas. Mr. Grubb is patron of the curacy.

Mrs. Chibnall, formerly lady of this manor, gave a ſum of money to provide clothing annually for 24 poor women.

SANDERTON, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about eight miles ſouth-eaſt of Thame, about the ſame diſtance north-weſt of High-Wycombe, and about ſeven miles from Wendover. In this pariſh were formerly two manors, two churches and two diſtinct benefices which were conſolidated about the year 1450, when the two manors and advowſons became united alſo under one proprietor. The manor and advowſon of Sanderton St. Nicholas had been before that time ſucceſſively in the families of Dayrell, Foxley, Brun and Braybroke. That of Sanderton St. Mary in the Sandertons, one of which family was knight of the ſhire in the reign of Edward III. John Brecknock being poſſeſſed of both manors, ſold them, in the year 1474, to Sir John Leynham, of whoſe widow they were purchaſed in 1481 by biſhop Moreton, afterwards archbiſhop of Canterbury, Lord Chancellor and Cardinal. His heir, Thomas Moreton, ſold them, in 1508, to Edward Donne eſq. of whoſe family they

[q] Papers in the poſſeſſion of Lord Hampden.

were purchaſed in 1592, by an anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, Lord Dormer. The rectory is in the patronage of Magdalen College, in Oxford.

SHABBINGTON, or SHOBBINGTON, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies nearly three miles weſt of Thame. The manor was anciently in the Greys of Rotherfield, afterwards in the Deincourts and Lovels. The Clerkes of Hitcham, were poſſeſſed of this manor as early as the year 1624. Sir John Clerke who was created a baronet in 1660 removed his reſidence from Hitcham to Shabbington. In 1716 the manor of Shabbington was purchaſed of the Clerkes by the Heywoods: on the death of William Heywood, laſt heir male of that family, in 1762, it deſcended to his ſiſters and coheirs, and became in conſequence of a partition which afterwards took place, the ſole property of Mrs. Elizabeth Crewe, relict of his nephew John Crewe eſq. of Boleſworth, in Cheſhire. Since Mrs. Crewe's deceaſe it has devolved to her ſon-in-law Lord Viſcount Falmouth. The Knights of St. John of Jeruſalem had a manor in this pariſh which was given them in 1299. It was granted in 1588 to Tipper and Dawe: we have not been able to trace it any farther.

In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the family of Clerke. The great tithes which were appropriated to the priory of the Holy Trinity, in Wallingford, are now the property of the Rev. Philip Wroughton and Mary Anne his wife who are patrons of the vicarage. Mrs. Wroughton was heir of the Tipping family who were many years proprietors of the rectory and advowſon.

Thomas Jeamſon, ſon of a vicar of Shabbington publiſhed a work called "Artificial embelliſhments" printed in 1665.

SHALLESTON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about four miles north-weſt of Buckingham near the road to Brackley. The manor was anciently in the Doyleys, afterwards (as early as the year 1202) in the Baynells, from whom it paſſed by heirs female to the families of Ayete and Purefoy. The laſt-mentioned family, after poſſeſſing this manor more than 350 years, became extinct in 1762, by the death of Henry Purefoy eſq. Under Mr. Purefoy's will it is now the property of the Rev. George Huddleſton Purefoy Jervoiſe, who is patron alſo of the rectory, and incumbent. He reſides in the manor-houſe.

In the pariſh church, a neat modern ſtructure, are ſome monuments of the Purefoys, among which is that of Henry Purefoy above-mentioned, and of his mother, who, ſurviving him, died in 1765 at the age of 92. The pariſh of Shalleſton has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1767, when an allotment

was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of all tithes excepting thoſe of an eſtate then belonging to Mr. Taylor, which, under the act, was to continue titheable.

SHENLEY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies between three and four miles from Stony-Stratford, near the great road to London. The manor of Church-end in this pariſh, was in the reign of King Edward I. in the family of Vache, from whom it paſſed by an heir female to the Greys. Sir Giles Daubeny purchaſed it of Lord Grey of Wilton in 1505, and, in 1520, ſold it to the Pigots. Having been veſted in the crown by an exchange, this manor was granted, in 1563, to the Aſhfields, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Forteſcues and Whorwoods. It is now the property of the Rev. Primatt Knapp, whoſe anceſtors purchaſed it of the Whorwoods in 1696.

The manor of Brook-end, or Shenley-Manſell, has been held with Church-end ever ſince the year 1426. It had formerly been in the Beauchamps, and on the attainder of Thomas Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, was granted, in 1397, to Thomas Mowbray, afterwards Duke of Norfolk[r].

The manor of Weſtbury, in this pariſh, was anciently in the family of Fitz-Euſtace. In the reign of King Henry IV. it became the property of the Staffords of Totenhoe, and now belongs to William Selby eſq. of Winſlow, whoſe anceſtor, Mr. Lowndes, purchaſed it of the Staffords in 1695. Mr. Selby has alſo the manor of Giffords in this pariſh.

In the pariſh church is a handſome monument for Thomas Stafford eſq. of Totenhoe, who died in 1607. He founded an almſhouſe at this place, and endowed it with 35l. *per annum* for four men and two women, the men to be allowed 1s. 9d. each weekly, and the women 1s. 2d.; the ſum of 13s. 4d. to be allowed yearly for the men's and 8s. 6d. for the women's clothing.

Mr. Knapp is patron of the rectory and incumbent. Certain fields within the manor of Shenley-Brook-end were incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1761, and an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes.

SHERRINGTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles north of Newport-Pagnell on the road to Olney. The principal manor was anciently in the Paganells, afterwards in the Tyringhams and Backwells. It was ſold in 1694 to the Chapmans, and is now, by purchaſe, the property of William Praed eſq. of Tyringham, the repreſentative of its former proprietors.

[r] Dugdale.

Another

Another manor paſſed by a female heir from the Baſſets to the Greys, and was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Marriot, Montgomery, and Norton. From the Nortons it paſſed by marriage to the Pargiters. It is now, by inheritance from the latter, the property of Dryden Smith eſq. in whoſe family it has been nearly a century.

The Mercers' company have a manor, or manor-farm in this pariſh, given by Dr. John Colet, dean of St. Paul's, in the year 1519, to that company, in truſt for charitable uſes. Browne Willis mentions another manor, which was ſucceſſively in the families of Caron, Linford, Reynes, Lowe, and Adams, and was afterwards purchaſed (about the year 1710) by the Cheſters. The preſent Mr. Cheſter has an eſtate in this pariſh, but does not exerciſe any manerial rights.

The biſhop of Lincoln is patron of the rectory. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1796, when a corn-rent was ſettled on the rector in lieu of tithes.

SIMPSON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about a mile and a half north of Fenny-Stratford, on the road to Newport-Pagnell. The manor at a remote period belonged ſucceſſively to the families of Giffard, Cauz, and Grey. From the latter it paſſed, in the year 1510, to the Pigots, who poſſeſſed it about a century. It was afterwards in the family of Hatch; and, about the year 1686, paſſed by purchaſe to the Waldens. The preſent proprietor is Sir Thomas Hanmer bart. who reſides occaſionally in the manor-houſe, having inherited it by deſcent from Job Hanmer eſq. who married Suſanna, the heireſs of Thomas Walden eſq.

In the pariſh church are ſome monuments of the Hanmers; that of the late Sir Walden Hanmer, who was one of the knights of the ſhire is a handſome piece of ſculpture by Bacon.

Sir Thomas Hanmer is patron of the rectory. His father purchaſed the advowſon of the Cranwell family in 1760. The pariſh has been incloſed purſuant to two acts of parliament paſſed in 1763 and 1770, and an allotment of land has been aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, &c.

SLAPTON, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſly, lies on the borders of Bedfordſhire, about four miles from Leighton-Buſard, and about eleven miles from Ayleſbury.

The manor, which had belonged to the abbeſs and convent of Barking in Eſſex, was granted, in 1560, to Thomas Rowe eſq. whoſe deſcendants ſold it before the year 1762 to the Theeds. It is now the property of the Earl of Bridgwater, whoſe

whoſe anceſtor purchaſed it of the Theeds about the commencement of the laſt century.

The manor of Horton-hall, in Edleſborough, now the property of Chriſtopher Johnſon eſq. extends into this pariſh.

The rectory is in the patronage of Chriſt Church college in Oxford. The Theeds ſold the advowſon, in 1720, to the Duke of Chandos: of whom, in 1729, it was purchaſed by the dean and chapter.

SOULBURY, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies on the Bedfordſhire ſide of the county, about three miles north-weſt of Leighton-Buſard and about five miles ſouth of Fenny-Stratford. The manor was in the Manſells during a great part of the thirteenth century. It is now (together with the manors of *Liſcombe* and *Hollingdon* (hamlets in this pariſh) the property of Sir Jonathan Lovett bart. whoſe anceſtors were poſſeſſed of them as early as the reign of Edward the Second[s], probably by purchaſe from the Manſells. Sir Jonathan Lovett, the preſent proprietor, was of a younger branch of the family who had been ſettled for a long period at Kingwell, in the county of Tipperary. Upon the failure of the elder branch he ſucceeded to the Buckinghamſhire eſtate, and in 1781 was created a baronet. The ſeat at Liſcombe is a quadrangular building; one ſide is occupied by a chapel which, by the ſtyle of its architecture, appears to have been built about the middle or latter end of the fourteenth century; the houſe is of much later date, no part of it appearing to be older than the reign of Queen Elizabeth: the windows have been modernized. Among the portraits at Liſcombe are ſeveral of the Lovett family; a half length of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk[t], with a pink in his hand; the firſt Earl of Bedford, a half length, on board, dated 1555; Sir Nicholas Criſpe, in armour; Sir Edmund Verney, ſtandard bearer to King Charles I. who was ſlain at Edghill; Archbiſhop Sancroft; Titus Oates, &c. In the pariſh church are ſome monuments of the Lovetts.

The impropriate rectory, which formerly belonged to Woburn abbey, is now the property of Sir Jonathan Lovett. The curacy, or donative, is in the gift of the crown, but the Lovett family have been allowed to enjoy the patronage ever

[s] A fine of this eſtate was then levied on the marriage of an anceſtor of Sir Jonathan Lovett's, with one of the Tourville family.

[t] Inſcribed "Carolus Brandon dux Suffolciæ, præſes Henrici oct. qui fuit (ex parte matris) frater Humphridi Tyrrell domini de Thornton in com. Buck. qui Humphridus ſponſavit filiam unicam et hæredem Roberti Ingleton domini de Thornton cancellarii ſ̃ci regis & unius prædicti regis conciii privati."

ſince

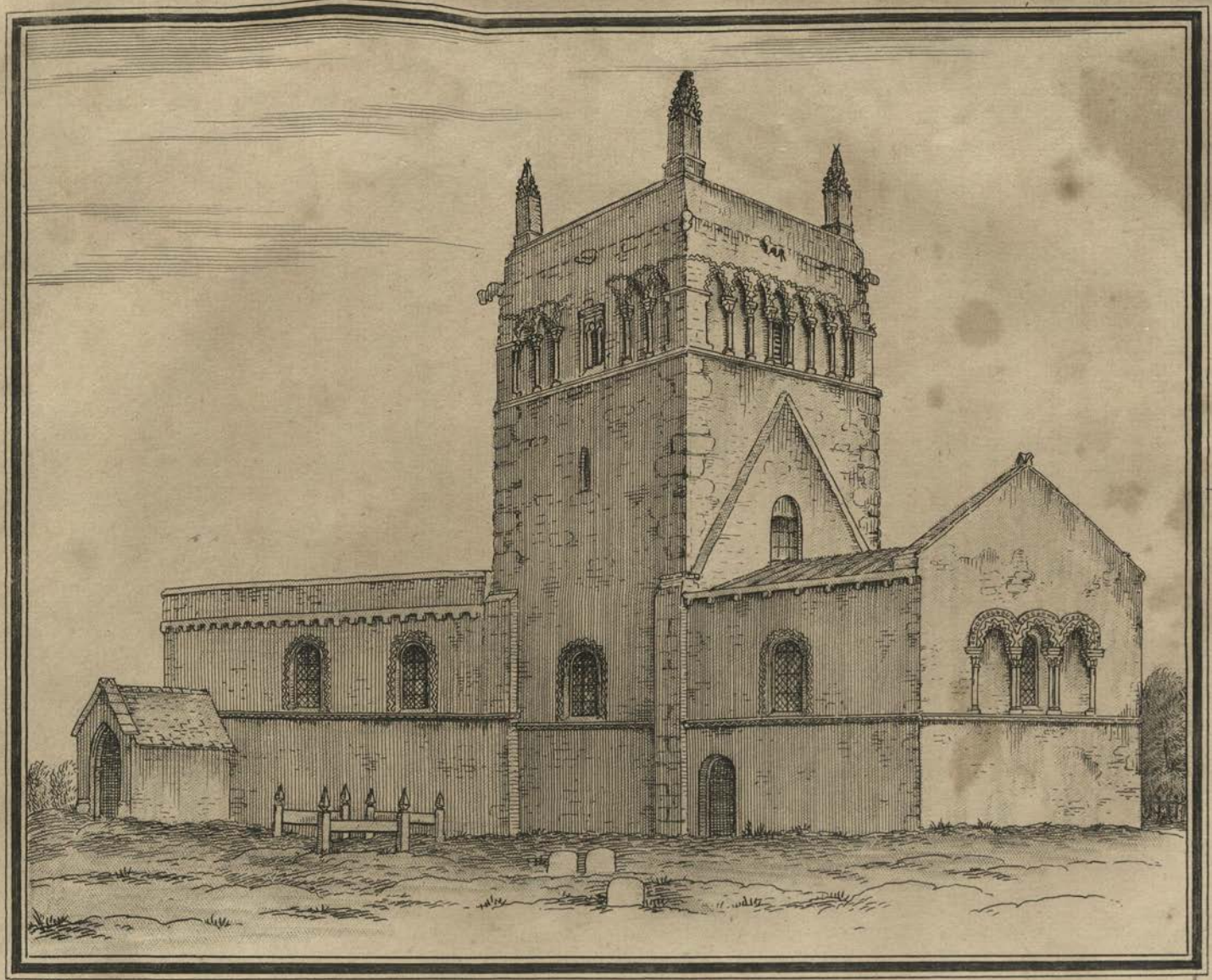
ſince the year 1642, when Sir Robert Lovett left the ſum of 40l. *per annum.* as an augmentation of the curacy to be paid by his heirs, on condition that they ſhould be allowed to nominate the curate, whoſe ſalary was before only 8l. *per annum.* A charity ſchool for 24 children was founded by the Lovett family in 1714. The manor and liberty of Soulbury, with the hamlet of Hollingdon was incloſed purſuant to an act of parliament paſſed in 1772, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the impropriator in lieu of tithes. The other hamlets in this pariſh are *Liſcombe* (already ſpoken of) *Bragenham*, where was formerly a chapel of eaſe, and *Chelmſcote.* The manor of Bragénham is the property of the Hon. Mary Leigh, whoſe family purchaſed it of the Theeds in 1735. The manor of Chelmſcote has paſſed with that of the neighbouring pariſh of Linſlade, and is now the property of Andrew Corbet eſq.

In a diſtant part of this pariſh, near Great-Brickhill, is Stockgrove, the ſeat of Edward Hanmer eſq. whoſe manor of Smewnes extends partly into this pariſh.

STANTON-BARRY, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about four miles north-eaſt of Stony-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the family of Barry, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to that of Boveton. At a later period it belonged to the family of Vaux; and, having been veſted in the crown by the attainder of Sir William Vaux, was granted, in 1467, to Richard Fowler eſq. and his heirs male[n]. Being again in the crown, it was granted to the Aſhfields, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the families of Lea and Temple. In 1667, it was purchaſed of Sir John Temple by Sir John Wittewronge, who had been created a baronet in 1662. Sir John Wittewronge built a capital manſion at this place (of which there are now no remains) for the reſidence of his ſon. It continued to be a ſeat of the Wittewronges till 1727, when the eſtate was ſold to Sarah Ducheſs of Marlborough, and the ſale was confirmed by act of parliament. The ducheſs gave it to her grandſon John Spencer eſq. grandfather of the Right Hon. Earl Spencer, who is the preſent proprietor. Sir John Wittewronge, the laſt of the family who poſſeſſed this eſtate, was outlawed for the murder of Mr. Griffith, a ſurgeon, and at length died in the Fleet priſon of wounds received in an affray with a fellow priſoner. This opulent family having fallen to decay, Sir William Wittewronge, who ſucceeded to the title on the death of his unhappy brother in 1743, and was the laſt baronet, was appointed governor of the poor knights of Windſor.

[n] Pat. 7 Edw. IV.

In



SOUTH EAST VIEW OF STEWKLEY CHURCH.

In the pariſh church, which exhibits ſome remains of Saxon architecture [a], are ſome memorials for the families of Temple, Tyrrell, and Wittewronge.

Lord Spencer has the great tithes, which were formerly appropriated to the priory of Goring, in Oxfordſhire, and is patron of the vicarage.

STEWKLEY, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about ſix miles to the eaſt of Winſlow, about ſeven miles ſouth of Fenny-Stratford, and about five miles from Leighton-Buſard, in Bedfordſhire. Browne Willis makes mention of four manors in this pariſh: the principal one was anciently in the Clares and Burgherſts: the heireſs of the laſt mentioned family married Thomas Chaucer, ſon of the poet; whoſe only daughter Alice was the wife of William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. John Duke of Suffolk gave this manor, in 1480, to the dean and chapter of Windſor, under whom it has been held for many years by the family of Leigh: the preſent leſſee is the Hon. Mary Leigh, of Stonely, in Warwickſhire.

Another manor called Vauxes, *alias* Fowlers, was ſucceſſively in the families of Molins and Chaſtillon. Having been forfeited to the crown, in 1467, by the attainder of Sir William Vaux, it was granted to Richard Fowler eſq. being then deſcribed as a moiety of the manor of Stewkley [b]. Browne Willis ſpeaks of it as belonging in his time to the family of Hopper. It is now the property of the Rev. Mr. Wodley of Cublington, who purchaſed it of Mr. Foſter.

Stewkley-grange was, in the reign of King Henry VIII. in the Duncombe family. From the year 1690, or thereabout, till 1760, it was in the family of Wigg: and is now the property of Mr. Ward.

At *Littlecote* or *Litcote*, a hamlet of this pariſh, was formerly a chapel of eaſe dedicated to St. Giles. The manor was at a remote period in the families of Molins and Pigot: in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was purchaſed by an anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, Thomas Sheppard eſq. of Thornton. The Sheppards were ſettled at Littlecote, in the reign of King Henry VIII.

In the pariſh church, which affords a very curious ſpecimen of Saxon architecture [c] is the tomb of the late Thomas Sheppard eſq. who married the heireſs of the Tourneys of Cublington.

The great tithes of Stewkley which were appropriated to the priory of Kenilworth are now annexed to the See of Oxford. The biſhop of that dioceſe is patron of the vicarage.

[a] See p. 487. [b] Pat. 7. Edw. IV. [c] See it ſpoken of more at large p. 486.

STOKE-GOLDINGTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Northamptonſhire four miles and a half from Newport-Pagnell, in the road from that town to Northampton. There were anciently two manors, or moieties of manors, in this place; both of which are now the property of Miſs Wrighte of Gothurſt: one of theſe has paſſed by the ſame title as Gothurſt; the other was anciently in the Peverells, whoſe heireſs married into the family of Barentine: in 1344 it was given by the Barentines to the prior and convent of Ravenſton. After the reformation, this eſtate became the property of the Mulſo family; ſince which time it has paſſed in the ſame manner as the other eſtate. Miſs Wrighte is patroneſs of the rectory, which was conſolidated with Gothurſt in 1736. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1770, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, &c. There is no charity ſchool or alms-houſe in the pariſh.

*Eakley*, now united to Stoke-Goldington, was formerly a diſtinct pariſh, and had a chapel which was ſerved once a month. There are two manors in Eakley; one of theſe, called Wolf's-fields, was purchaſed of the late Lord Winchelſea by the truſtees of Dr. Buſby's charities. Miſs Wrighte's manor of Stoke is held under this manor by a quit rent of 2s. 4d. *per annum*. The other manor, called Eakley-Lane, was many years in the family of Lane, and is now held in truſt for the repreſentatives of the late Charles Lane, of St. Thomas ſtreet, Southwark, by Henry Cline eſq. Another manor near Stoke-Goldington, called Gorefields, is extra-parochial; it is now the property of Miſs Wrighte, whoſe father purchaſed it of the Wilkinſons.

STOKE-HAMOND, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles ſouth of Fenny-Stratford. The manor continued for a conſiderable time in the family of Wolverton, deſcendants of Maignon Brito, who held it at the time of the Norman Survey. The greater part of it was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Chaſtillon, Barton, Ingleton, Tyrrell, Kirk, and Bennet. From the latter it paſſed by marriage to the family of Scudamore: it is now the property of his grace the Duke of Norfolk, in right of his ducheſs, who was grandaughter and heir of the laſt Lord Scudamore. A fourth part of the manor was ſeparated from the reſt in the reign of Richard II. and given to the priory of Dunſtaple: ſubſequent to the reformation it was for ſome years in the family of Pye, afterwards in the Smiths: in 1773 it was purchaſed in truſt for the Ducheſs of Norfolk, in whom the whole manor is now veſted. The lands belonging to this portion of the manor paſſed into other hands.

In

In the parish church are some memorials of the families of Disney, Hillersdon, and Frank. The bishop of Lincoln is patron of the rectory. The parish has been inclosed pursuant to an act of parliament, passed in 1773, when an allotment was made to the rector in lieu of tithes.

STOKE-MANDEVILLE, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about three miles and a half south of Aylesbury, near the road to Amersham. This manor, which was formerly in the Zouches, and of late years in the Clarkes of Ardington, in Berkshire; was purchased, about the year 1790, of William Wiseman Clarke esq. by Mr. Charles Lucas, of Aylesbury, the present proprietor.

The manor of Oldbury belonged, in the reign of King Richard the Second, to Sir William Moton; both this manor and that of Newbury in this parish, were soon afterwards in the Brudenells, collateral ancestors of the Earl of Cardigan, who had a seat at Stoke-Mandeville. In the chapel, (which is parochial although dependant on Bierton as the mother church), is a tablet in memory of some children of Edmund Brudenell esq. who died in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The manors of Oldbury and Newbury are not now known.

The rectorial estate is held by Christ's-Hospital under the dean and chapter of Lincoln. The parish has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1797: when an allotment of land was given in lieu of the great tithes, and a corn-rent assigned to the vicar of Bierton.

Prestwood lies in an insulated part of the parish of Stoke-Mandeville, among the woods between Hampden and Missenden. Southward of the avenue leading to Hampden house, was the land for which 20s. ship money was assessed on Mr. Hampden, whose resistance of this assessment occasioned the celebrated trial on that subject. Mr. Oldham's manor of Overbury extends into this part of the parish.

STOKE-POGES, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies nearly two miles north of Slough, and about six miles north-west of Colnbrook. Amicia de Stoke brought the manor of this place in marriage to Robert Poges, who was chosen one of the knights of the shire in the year 1300; his grandaughter and heir Egidia married Sir John Molins knight-banneret, and treasurer of the chamber to King Edward III. In 1331 he had the royal licence for fortifying and embattling his mansion at Stoke, and, in 1346, he procured a charter that Stoke and Ditton, where also he had a seat, should be exempt from the authority of the king's Marshal. From Sir John Molins this manor descended by female heirs to the families of Hungerford and Hastings. Henry Hastings Earl of Huntingdon

rebuilt the manor-houſe in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The eſtate was ſoon afterwards ſeized by the crown for a debt. King James the Firſt, about the year 1621, granted the manor in fee to Lord Chief Juſtice Coke, who appears to have held it many years before as leſſee under the crown. In 1601, being then Attorney-General, he entertained Queen Elizabeth very ſumptuouſly at this place, and preſented her Majeſty with jewels to the value of 1000l. or 1200l. In 1625 this celebrated lawyer, having quitted his high ſtation, and being out of favour with the court, was obliged, much againſt his will, to ſerve the office of ſheriff for the county; and it was thought by his friends a great degradation, that he who had filled one of the higheſt ſituations on the bench ſhould attend on the judges at the aſſizes. Sir John Villiers, elder brother of the Duke of Buckingham, married Sir Edward Coke's only daughter; and this manor (then held by leaſe) having been ſettled on him at the time of his marriage, he was, in 1619, created a peer by the title of baron Villiers, of Stoke-Poges, and Viſcount Purbeck. Lord Purbeck ſucceeded to this eſtate after the death of Sir Edward Coke, which happened in 1634, at his ſeat at Stoke-Poges. The houſe, it appears, was ſettled on his lady, who was relict of Sir William Hatton. There appears to have been but little harmony between them; during the latter part of his life they lived ſeparately; and ſo eager was ſhe to take poſſeſſion, that, upon a premature report of his death, we are told ſhe haſtened down with her brother, Lord Wimbledon, for that purpoſe; but meeting his phyſician near Colnbrook, and learning from him tidings of her huſband's amendment, ſhe returned diſappointed to London. This great man ſeems to have been peculiarly unfortunate towards the cloſe of his life, and to have ſuffered much from domeſtic afflictions: his only daughter, Lady Purbeck, eloped from her huſband in 1621, and lived in adultery with Sir Robert Howard [d]. She was reconciled to her father before his death, and lived with him at Stoke the two years immediately preceding; but after that event returned to Sir Robert Howard. The proceedings againſt this lady and her gallant were ſuch, as if they were to be now adopted, would have a greater effect perhaps in checking the crime of adultery, than the heavieſt pecuniary fines. Lady Purbeck was ſentenced by the High Commiſſion Court to do penance in a white ſheet at the Savoy church: ſhe eſcaped this ſentence by flight, but it hung over her for

[d] After her elopement ſhe for ſome time called herſelf Mrs. Wright, and lay in privately of a ſon, who bore that name. He afterwards took the name of Danvers by virtue of a patent of Oliver Cromwell, having married the heireſs of Sir John Danvers. His ſon aſſumed the title of Viſcount Purbeck; and after the death of George Duke of Buckingham, in 1688, that of Earl of Buckingham; but his title was not allowed by the Houſe of Lords. He was buried at South-Mims, in 1715. Cole's MSS. Brit. Muſ.

many years. In 1635, the year after her father's death, ſhe and Sir Robert Howard were both taken into cuſtody, and committed to different priſons[e], ſhe to the Gatehouſe and Sir Robert to the Fleet, where he ſuffered a tedious impriſonment! Lady Purbeck eſcaped from priſon diſguiſed in male apparel, and got over to France. The government demanded her from that court; but whether ſhe was given up, or returned and ſubmitted to her ſentence is not known, as the communicative Mr. Garrard, Lord Strafford's intelligent informer, about that time ceaſes his correſpondence with his noble patron. It is certain that ſome years afterwards ſhe was in England cohabiting with Sir Robert Howard, and being with him in the King's garriſon at Oxford, died there in 1645, and was buried in St. Mary's church. In 1647, Stoke-houſe was for a ſhort time the reſidence of the unfortunate King Charles, when he was a priſoner in the power of the army. Not long after the death of Lord Purbeck, which happened in 1656, the manor of Stoke was ſold by his heirs to John Gayer eſq. elder brother of Sir Robert Gayer K. B. who afterwards poſſeſſed it. It was purchaſed of the Gayers about the year 1720, by Edward Halſey eſq. one of the repreſentatives of the town of Buckingham, whoſe daughter Anne married Lord Cobham. Stoke-houſe and the manor were ſold by her heirs to William Penn eſq. chief proprietor of Pennſylvania, grandfather of John Penn eſq. the preſent poſſeſſor.

The ancient manor-houſe at Stoke has been celebrated, not only for its eminent inhabitants, but as having furniſhed the ſubject of Gray's "long ſtory." The "dim windows that excluded the light" were filled with arms of the family of Haſtings and its alliances, thoſe of Sir Edward Coke, and many of his great contemporaries in the law. It was pulled down in 1789 by Mr. Penn, who has built an elegant modern manſion not far from its ſite from a deſign of Mr. Wyatt. The library is a noble room 140 feet in length, extending the whole of the ſouth front. Among other family pictures at Stoke-houſe are thoſe of the celebrated Admiral Sir William Penn, and his ſon the ſtill more celebrated founder of the colony of Pennſylvania, painted in armour at the age of 22, before his converſion to the tenets of the Quakers. In the park to the north of the houſe is a coloſſal ſtatue of Sir Edward Coke (by Roſſi) on a fluted pedeſtal ſixty eight feet in height.

The priory of Burnham had a manor in this pariſh. Bonyforden in Stoke-Poges was a ſeat and manor of the Windſor family. We have not been able to gain any information as to the ſubſequent hiſtory or of the preſent poſſeſſors of theſe eſtates.

[e] Archbiſhop Laud was fined 500l. ſome years afterwards by the parliament for having impriſoned Sir Robert Howard. Cole's MSS. Brit. Muſ.

The

The pariſh church is a ſmall Gothic ſtructure with a wooden ſpire. In the north wall of the chancel is an ancient tomb under an arch rudely executed and ornamented with foliage, probably that of Sir John Molins. Near the altar are the tombs (with their effigies engraven on braſs) of Sir William Molins, who fell at the ſiege of Orleans in 1429; Margaret Lady Molins and Eleanor Lady Molins. George Earl of Huntingdon, who died in 1544, lies buried alſo in the chancel, but has no monument. Sir Edward Haſtings, Lord Loughborough, built a chapel adjoining the church as a place of interment for his family, and directed by his will that tombs ſhould be erected for ſuch of his relations as had been buried at this place. On his own tomb he deſired that there might be placed his effigies in copper, gilt. Either his directions were not complied with, or the monuments have been removed, for there are now no memorials of any kind for the family of Haſtings. There is a monument in this chapel for Dr. Gregory Haſcard dean of Windſor, one of the moſt celebrated preachers of his time, who died in 1708.

The church-yard at Stoke-Poges was the ſcene of Gray's well known elegy. That celebrated poet ſpent a great part of his youth in this village, and lies buried here himſelf under a tomb which he had erected over the remains of his mother and aunt. As there is nothing on the ſtone that covers his remains to denote it as the place of his burial, Mr. Penn has erected a monument for him in an adjoining field with the following inſcription: "This monument in honour of Thomas Gray, was erected A. D. 1799, among the ſcenery celebrated by that great lyric and elegiac poet. He died in 1771, and lies unnoticed in the adjoining church-yard, under the tombſtone on which he piouſly and pathetically recorded the interment of his aunt and much lamented mother."

The great tithes of this pariſh were given by Hugh de Stoke to the priory of St. Mary-Overie in Southwark; after the reformation they were granted to John Dorſet: they were purchaſed about the middle of the 17th century, by Sir Robert Clarges, and having remained ſome time in his family were afterwards in the Godolphins. It is probable they were purchaſed by Dr. Godolphin, provoſt of Eton and afterwards dean of St. Paul's, who was uncle of the laſt Earl of Godolphin; they are now the property of Lord Francis Godolphin Oſborne, younger brother of the Duke of Leeds. The late Lord Godolphin and his lady augmented the vicarage with a rent charge of 48l. *per annum* iſſuing out of the great tithes.

Sir Edward Haſtings, Lord Haſtings of Loughborough, founded a hoſpital in the year 1557 near the church-yard, and endowed it with a rent charge of 53l. 9s. 10½d. iſſuing out of the manor of Creech St. Michael, in Somerſetſhire,

and fix cow-paſtures in Stoke park, for the ſupport of a chantry-prieſt, and four beadſmen: after the reformation this hoſpital was incorporated by the name of maſter and brethren. The late Mr. Penn, in lieu of the cow-paſtures, gave 30 acres of land to the hoſpital, free of tithes and taxes: in 1765, he procured an act of parliament for pulling down the old hoſpital and rebuilding it on its preſent ſite, about a quarter of a mile from the church. The new hoſpital is a handſome brick building with commodious apartments for the poor brethren, a houſe for the maſter, and a chapel. Elizabeth Counteſs of Moira, Baroneſs Haſtings and Hungerford, as repreſentative of the founder, is patroneſs of the hoſpital. The preſent maſter, Mr. Nettleſhip, who was appointed in 1795, is vicar of Stoke-Poges, as was his predeceſſor. The viſitors of the hoſpital are the dean of Windſor and the provoſt of Eton.

*Ditton*, a hamlet of this pariſh, has a chapel of eaſe, which was formerly a chantry chapel. The manor of Ditton was held with Stoke-Poges by the families of Molins, Hungerford and Haſtings. Sir John Molins had the king's licence to fortify and embattle his houſes at Stoke and Ditton, in 1331. Ditton park belonged to the crown in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; it was afterwards the property and ſeat of Sir Ralph Winwood author of the Memorials, and ſecretary of ſtate to King James I.: after the death of his ſon Richard, it devolved to Ralph Lord Montagu (afterwards Duke of Montagu), whoſe father had married the heireſs of the Winwoods. Of late years Ditton has been the ſeat of Earl Beaulieu, who died in 1803. He poſſeſſed it in right of his lady, the Dutcheſs-dowager of Mancheſter, daughter and ſole heir of John Duke of Montagu. It is now by bequeſt the property of the Ducheſs of Buccleugh; the reverſion is veſted in her ſecond ſon Lord Montagu.

Ditton-houſe is ſaid to have been built by Sir Ralph Winwood: it is at preſent unoccupied.

Richard Winwood eſq. ſon of the ſecretary of ſtate, being poſſeſſed of the manor of Ditton, purchaſed the chapel in which divine ſervice had been diſcontinued for many years, endowed it with 50l. *per annum*, and built a houſe for the miniſter. The patronage of the donative was by him veſted in his heirs, and in default of heirs, in the proprietor of the manor of Ditton for the time being.

Baylies, in this pariſh, the ſeat of the late Lord Godolphin, was rebuilt by Dr. Gregory Haſcard dean of Windſor. The former manſion had been the chief ſeat of the Duke of Cleveland. This, with many other eſtates, was bequeathed by the late Lord Godolphin to Lord Francis Godolphin Oſborne, ſecond ſon of the late Duke of Leeds. The houſe was lately in the occupation.

tion of the Earl of Roſslyn, who died there in the month of January 1805. It is at preſent unoccupied.

Other principal ſeats in this pariſh are Stoke-place, on Stoke-green, lately Sir George Howard's, now General Vyſe's. Stoke-farm, the earl of Sefton's; and Weſt-end houſe, the Rev. Dr. Browning's.

Sir John Molins had a charter for a fair at Stoke-Poges in 1331, to be held on the feſtival of St. Giles and the ſix following days. This has been diſcontinued, but there is a fair for toys upon Stoke-green on Whitſun Tueſday.

STONE, in the hundred of Ayleſbury and deanery of Wendover, lies nearly three miles weſt of Ayleſbury, on the road to Thame. The manor was anciently in the family of Braci, afterwards in that of Whittingham. It has been ſince held for many years by the Lees with the adjoining manor of Hartwell, and is now the property of the Rev. Sir George Lee bart.

The pariſh church which was conſecrated in 1273[f], retains ſome veſtiges of the architecture of that period. The rectory was given by the Braci family to the priory of Oſeney. By the act of parliament which paſſed for incloſing this pariſh in 1776, it appears that the Lees were entitled to the great tithes of Southwarp in Stone, and the earl of Cheſterfield to thoſe of the remainder of the pariſh. Allotments of land were then aſſigned to the impropriators and to the vicar, who was entitled to the tithes of hay. Sir George Lee is patron and incumbent of the vicarage.

STOWE, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies nearly three miles to the north-weſt of the county town. The manor was given by Robert Doyley to the abbot and convent of Oſeney. King Henry VIII. granted it to Robert King the firſt biſhop of Oxford, who had been abbot of Oſney, and his ſucceſſors in that ſee. In 1590, the biſhop of Oxford having previouſly ſurrendered it to the crown, it was granted to Thomas Crompton and another perſon[g], who immediately conveyed it to John Temple eſq. whoſe family were originally of Sheepey, in Leiceſterſhire, and afterwards of Burton-Baſſet in Warwickſhire. His father, Peter Temple eſq. was the firſt of the family who ſettled at Stowe about the year 1554[h], probably as leſſee under the biſhop of Oxford. Sir Thomas Temple of Stowe was created a baronet in 1612. His great-grandſon Sir Richard, who diſtin-

[f] Kennet's Parochial Antiquities. [g] Pat. 32 Eliz. [h] From the information of the Marquis of Buckingham.

guiſhed

guiſhed himſelf by his military ſkill and bravery in the wars in Flanders, was created baron Cobham in 1714, and in 1718 advanced to the rank of a viſcount, with the ſame title. Having no iſſue, and his younger brother having died unmarried, he procured an entail of the peerage on his ſiſter Heſter, the wife of Richard Grenville eſq. and her heirs male. On the death of Lord Cobham the title of baronet deſcended to a younger branch of the Temple family, in which it ſtill remains. Mrs. Grenville became Viſcounteſs Cobham, and was ſoon afterwards created Counteſs Temple: her eldeſt ſon, Richard Earl Temple, dying without iſſue in 1779, was ſucceeded in title and eſtates by his nephew George, who, in 1784, was created Marquis of Buckingham.

Stowe, the ſeat of the Marquis of Buckingham, has long been eſteemed the chief ornament of this county. The approach to it from Buckingham is very grand, particularly as you paſs through a Corinthian arch 60 feet in height. From this ſpot you have a moſt favourable view of the noble manſion and its ſurrounding ſcenery. The houſe was originally built by Peter Temple eſq. in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and rebuilt by Sir Richard Temple K. B. who died in 1697. His ſon Lord Cobham built a new front and added the wings; but it was improved to its preſent magnificence by the late Earl Temple, who again rebuilt the front; and the preſent noble owner, under whoſe directions the ſeveral ſtately apartments which it contains have been deſigned and completed. The whole front now extends 916 feet: the central part is 454. The ſaloon is a very ſingular and magnificent room of an oval form 60 feet in length and 43 in breadth: on the frieze is a Roman triumph and ſacrifice, extending all round the room, executed in alto relievo by Valdre; the principal figures are copied from the pillars of Trajan and Antonine and other public buildings at Rome. The ſtate drawing room is 50 feet by 32; the ſtate gallery 70 feet by 25; the library, recently fitted up, occupies the ſpace which was before filled by the drawing room and dining room: it is of the ſame ſize with the ſtate gallery. This noble manſion contains a numerous and valuable collection of pictures by the old maſters, and many portraits. Among the moſt remarkable of the latter are the brave Sir Beville Grenville, who fell at Lanſdown, in 1643; Lord Cobham; Mrs. Heſter Sandys (daughter of Sir Thomas Temple) the lady mentioned in the account of Latimers as having lived to ſee 700 of her own deſcendants; a whole length of Oliver Cromwell, with Sir Peter Temple, as a boy, tying on his faſh, by the elder Richardſon (given by Sir Peter to Lord Cobham in 1685); Richard Deſborough, Cromwell's brother in law, and his wife, by Dobſon; Mons. de Vieuville the French ambaſſador who loſt his life at the battle of Newbury, by Vandyke; Camden the antiquary; Dean

Swift; Pope by Hudſon; and Addiſon by Sir Godfrey Kneller. The gardens, which occupy 400 acres, exhibit an extraordinary ſpecimen of what may be effected by art with ſcarcely any aſſiſtance from nature. Their varied ſurface having been produced almoſt entirely by the labour of the hand upon ground which was originally nearly level. They were firſt deſigned by Lord Cobham, aſſiſted by Bridgman and Kent; to the latter, whoſe taſte was much ſuperior to that of Bridgman, they owe moſt of their preſent beauty. Some of the various temples and other buildings which adorn theſe gardens were deſigned alſo by Kent; others by Vanburgh, Gibbs, &c. Launcelot Browne, who afterwards attained ſuch celebrity for his ſkill and taſte in laying out of grounds, came into Lord Cobham's ſervice as a boy, in the year 1737, and was employed in his gardens till 1750; but he had no ſhare, as generally has been ſuppoſed, in any of the improvements, they having been completed before he came to Stowe. The good taſte which he evinced whilſt employed by the Duke of Grafton, to whom he was recommended by Lord Cobham, laid the foundation of his future fame and fortune. It would not be conſiſtent with the intention of this work to enter into a more minute deſcription of this celebrated houſe and its gardens, which have been ſo often deſcribed, and which have been deſcribed very much at large in a quarto volume lately publiſhed at Buckingham with numerous plates. The beauties of Stowe have been extolled in poetry by Pope and Weſt, who ſpent many feſtive hours with its noble owner, Lord Cobham, and ſome of the moſt celebrated of their literary contemporaries. Hammond, the elegiac poet, died whilſt on a viſit to Stowe in 1742.

The manor of *Dodford*, a hamlet of this pariſh, belonged in part to the neighbouring monaſtery of Bittleſden: it has long been annexed to that of Stowe.

The ſite of *Boycot*, a depopulated hamlet, is within the Marquis of Buckingham's grounds. The manor which belonged to the priory of Luffield has long been annexed alſo to Stowe.

In *Langport*, a hamlet of Stowe, there were anciently two manors, one of which was given to the priory of Oſeney, and has paſſed with Stowe; the other ſeems to have belonged to the priory of Luffield. An eſtate held under this priory was, as early as the year 1350, the property of a family who took their name from the hamlet, and paſſed by marriage, in the year 1416, to the Dayrells. It is now the property of Edmund Dayrell eſq. whoſe houſe adjoins the Marquis of Buckingham's pleaſure grounds.

The pariſh church contains no monument of the Temple family excepting that of Heſter Lady Peniſton, daughter of Sir Thomas Temple, who

who died in 1619: ſeveral of the family nevertheleſs lie buried here, as appears by the pariſh regiſter. Wotton is the burial place of the Grenvilles. In the churchyard was a large yew tree with a remarkable extent of ſpreading branches, which is now paled off, and ſtands within the Marquis of Buckingham's grounds. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the priory of Oſeney, were granted with the manor to the biſhop of Oxford, and having ſince paſſed with it are now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, who is patron of the vicarage. Sir Richard Temple endowed the vicarage with 50l. *per ann.*

At Luffield, on the borders of Northamptonſhire, juſt beyond the limits of the Marquis of Buckingham's park, Robert Boſſu Earl of Leiceſter, about the year 1124, founded a priory of Benedictine monks, which was diſſolved by King Henry VII. on account of their poverty, and given in 1500 to Weſtminſter abbey. Camden ſays, that it had been before forſaken by the monks on account of the plague. The ſite was granted by King Edward VI. to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, and having paſſed by marriage to the Temples, is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham. There are no remains of the conventual buildings; the ſite is occupied by a farm-houſe which is extra-parochial, but aſſeſſed with Stowe. Browne Willis ſays that the houſe, though conſidered as extra-parochial, ſtands locally within the pariſh of Lillingſtone-Dayrell, and that there was formerly a chapel at that place dedicated to Thomas à Becket, and given to Luffield priory by the Dayrells. The county of Northampton extends within fifty yards of the houſe. Browne Willis mentions a part of the ruins as remaining in his time, and ſtanding within the adjoining pariſh of Silveſton in Northamptonſhire.

In the reign of King Edward III. the prior claimed the privilege of holding a fair at Luffield for three days, at the feſtival of the Exaltation of the Croſs, and view of frankplege in Silveſton [s].

STONY-STRATFORD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, is a market town 52 miles from London, lying on the great road to Cheſter and Liverpool. Till of late years the eaſt ſide of Stony-Stratford, was in the pariſh of Wolverton, and the weſt ſide in Calverton. They are now two diſtinct pariſhes called St. Mary Magdalen, or the eaſt ſide of Stony-Stratford, and St. Giles, or the weſt ſide. A market at this town was granted to the Veres in 1460: in 1663, Simon Bennet lord of the manor of Calverton, procured a charter for a market on Friday (which is the preſent market day), and four fairs; April 9, the Wedneſday

[s] Placit. &c. in com. Buck. in Turr. Lond. No. 8.

and Thurſday in Whitſun-week, the Friday before Michaelmas, and All Saints day. A fair on the feſtival of St. Giles had been granted to the Veres in 1257, and another on the feſtival of St. Mary Magdalen in 1290. Browne Willis ſpeaks of four fairs as held in his time at Stony-Stratford, April 11; Thurſday in Whitſun-week, July 22, and Nov. 1: there are now only three fairs: Auguſt 2 (being the feſtival of St. Mary Magdalen O. S.) for toys, &c. Oct. 11, and Nov. 12. The town has twice ſuſtained much injury by fire; the firſt time was in the year 1736, when 53 houſes were burnt down: a more deſtructive fire broke out on the ſixth of May 1742, which conſumed 113 houſes and the church of St. Mary Magdalen, which has never been rebuilt: the tower, which eſcaped the flames, is yet ſtanding. The damage was eſtimated at 10,000l; the ſum of 4293l. was collected towards the loſs by a brief, and nearly 3000l. by ſubſcriptions. According to the returns made to parliament under the Population Act in 1801, there were then 106 houſes in the Eaſt-ſide pariſh containing 528 inhabitants, of whom 261 were males and 267 females; in the Weſt-ſide pariſh 193 houſes, containing 1125 inhabitants, of whom 545 were males and 580 females.

At this town King Richard the Third, then Duke of Glouceſter, accompanied by his friend the Duke of Buckingham, took poſſeſſion of the perſon of the unfortunate young monarch Edward V. who was then with his attendants at an inn, and in his preſence arreſted Lord Richard Grey and Sir Thomas Vaughan [h].

The church of St. Giles on the weſt ſide of Stony Stratford, was originally built as a chantry chapel in 1451, and was endowed in 1482. The tower was not erected till ſome years afterwards, as appears by the will of John Edy, who in 1487 left a ſum of money towards its building. This church (excepting the tower) was rebuilt in 1776 by Mr. Hiorne of Warwick: it exhibits a bad imitation of the Gothic ſtyle of architecture. The benefices of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen in Stony Stratford were conſolidated in 1776: they were before two diſtinct curacies, in the patronage of the Biſhop of Lincoln.

A gild at Stony-Stratford founded by John Edy and others was incorporated in the year 1481. There are ſeveral charities belonging to the town; the moſt important is one of 70l. *per annum* for apprenticing children.

The croſs erected at Stratford in memory of Eleanor Queen of Edward I. was demoliſhed in the great civil war: it ſtood at the lower end of the town.

An act of parliament for paving and lighting the ſtreets of Stony-Stratford, paſſed in 1801.

[h] Holinſhed.

WATER-

WATER-STRATFORD, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about three miles north-weſt of the county town. The manor belonged anciently to a family who took their name from this place: about the year 1350 it paſſed to the Giffords: it was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Barton, Fowler, Frankys, and Egerly: by the latter it was ſold about the year 1703 to Thomas Cookes Winford, eldeſt ſon of Sir Thomas Winford baronet, of whoſe repreſentatives it was purchaſed by the family of the preſent proprietor, B. Hayes eſq.

In the church are ſome memorials of the family of Frankys. The Marquis of Buckingham is patron of the rectory. The advowſon belonged formerly to the priory of Luffield. Dr. Robert Sipthorpe, rector of this pariſh, was charged by the parliament with having been the cauſe of the fatal rupture between them and their monarch, by his having preached up the royal prerogative as being above the law.

John Maſon who was preſented to the rectory of Water-Stratford in 1674, became in the latter part of his life a viſionary enthuſiaſt: Granger calls him a man of unaffected piety and ſays that he was eſteemed to be poſſeſſed of learning and abilities above the common level, till he became bewildered in the myſteries of Calviniſm. He was himſelf firmly perſuaded, and perſuaded multitudes, that he was the Elias appointed to proclaim the ſecond advent of our Saviour. Among other prophecies he foretold his own reſurrection after three days. Great numbers of his deluded followers left their homes and filled all the houſes and barns in the neighbourhood of Water-Stratford. Mr. Maſon printed a ſet of rhapſodical hymns for the uſe of his diſciples who ſang them in the fields, and we are told that every vagabond and village fidler round the country bore a part in the rude concert[i]; he died in full conviction of the reality of his miſſion. Although from the nature of his prophecies, and the failure of their accompliſhment, it might have been expected that his ſect would have been more ſhort-lived, and notwithſtanding his ſucceſſor, Mr. Ruſhworth, opened his grave ſome time after his interment, and expoſed his corpſe to view with the intention of convincing his pariſhioners of the falſity of his predeceſſor's prophecies and the wildneſs of his tenets, yet they continued for ſeveral years to aſſemble at a place they called Holy ground, where ſome of them affirmed that they had ſeen and ſpoken with Mr. Maſon after his death. When they were prevented from aſſembling in this

[i] See Browne Willis's Hiſtory of the hundred of Buckingham.

field,

field, they met at a houſe in Water-Stratford. Three pamphlets on this ſubject were publiſhed in 1694, the year after Mr. Maſon's death.

SWANBOURN, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about two miles and a half to the weſt of Winſlow. The manor belonged to Woburn abbey, and was granted in 1554 to Ambroſe Gilbert: it ſeems to have been ſince divided into moieties one of which was for many years in the family of Adams. After the death of Mr. James Adams in 1775, this moiety paſſed by his bequeſt to Mr. Williamſon: it is now by purchaſe the property of Joſeph Farborough eſq. The other moiety was ſome years ago in the family of Aſkew, and was purchaſed of them by the Deverells, to whom it ſtill belongs.

In the church are ſome memorials of the Adams family, and of Mr. Joſias Aſkew who died in 1750, at the age of 94.

The great tithes were formerly appropriated to Woburn abbey. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1761, when an allotment of land was aſſigned in lieu of great tithes to James Adams eſq. then impropriator, an allotment for the vicar's glebe, and a corn rent in lieu of vicarial tithes; an allotment of land was aſſigned for the repairs for the church, and another to the poor in lieu of an indulgence of paſture. The vicarage is in the gift of the crown.

TAPLOW, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, lies near the Bath road, about a mile and a half from Maidenhead. The manor, which it is probable had belonged to ſome religious houſe, was held on leaſe under the crown in the reign of King James I. by Sir Henry Guildford: ſoon afterwards it became the property of the Hampſon family who probably had a grant of it in fee. Thomas Hampſon eſq. of Taplow was created a baronet in 1642. The heirs of Sir Dennis Hampſon ſold this manor about the year 1700 to the Earl of Orkney, a diſtinguiſhed officer in the Duke of Marlborough's wars. His eldeſt daughter who was married to William O'Brien Earl of Inchiquin, ſucceeding him in his honours and eſtates, became Counteſs of Orkney in her own right: ſhe had two daughters, the elder of whom, the late counteſs of Orkney, was the firſt wife of her couſin Murrough, Earl of Inchiquin, ſince created Marquis of Thomond, who is the preſent proprietor of Taplow.

Taplow Court, the ſeat of the Marquis, is an old manſion, formerly the reſidence of the Hampſons: it ſtands near the church, and commands a fine view over Windſor foreſt and the Thames.

Cliefden-

Cliefden-houſe was purchaſed of the ancient family of the Manfelds by the witty and profligate Duke of Buckingham, who began a magnificent houſe upon the ſite which was purchaſed and finiſhed by the Earl of Orkney. Frederick Prince of Wales, father of his preſent Majeſty, rented this houſe of Anne Counteſs of Orkney, and reſided here ſeveral ſummers. This celebrated manſion was deſtroyed by fire in 1795: ſcarcely a wreck of its former magnificence remains. Its ſituation was much ſuperior to that of Taplow-Court, the rich view of Windſor and the ſurrounding county being heightened by the beauty of the ſcenery more immediately contiguous.

In the pariſh church at Taplow is the tomb of Sir Robert Manfeld, and ſeveral other memorials of that family. The Marquis of Thomond's aisle was built in 1633 by the Hampſons, whoſe arms, three hemp-breakers, occur frequently repeated in the cornice. The amiable Anne Counteſs of Orrery, whoſe beauty and virtues have been celebrated in the poetical works of her huſband and his contemporaries, lies buried in this church [k]. She died at Britwell court, a ſeat of the Earl's, in the neighbouring pariſh of Burnham.

The rectory, which belonged formerly to Merton abbey [l], is in the gift of the crown. The learned Dr. Hickman, ſome time biſhop of Londonderry, was inſtituted to it in 1698. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of Parliament paſſed in 1779, when an allotment of land was aſſigned the rector in lieu of tithes, &c.

THORNBOROUGH, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about three miles and a half to the eaſt of the county town. The manor belonged to the priory of Luffield, and was given, with the ſite of that monaſtery, to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton. Having paſſed by marriage to the family of Temple; to Thomas Roper, Lord Viſcount Baltinglaſs; and Thomas Lennard Earl of Suſſex, it was ſold by the latter in 1707 to Benjamin Woodnoth, of whoſe family it was purchaſed by the late Earl Verney: it is now the property of his niece Mary Baroneſs Fermanagh.

The manor, or reputed manor, of Bartons in this pariſh, belonging to the Marquis of Buckingham, is the ſame, probably, which belonged in the fourteenth century to the Damorys and afterwards to the Bartons of Thornton, who gave it by way of endowment to ſome chantries of their foundation. This chantry eſtate was granted in 1553 to Edward Chamberlain; it came into the Temple family in 1561 by purchaſe from Richard Sanders, who bought it of the original

[k] Biograph Brit. [l] Manning's Surrey, vol. I. p. 252.

grantee.

grantee. The preſident and ſcholars of Magdalen college in Oxford, have an eſtate in Thornborough, for which they hold a court-baron: it formed in ancient times part of the endowment of St. John's hoſpital in Oxford, which was ſold about the year 1456, with all its lands to William Waynfleet biſhop of Wincheſter, founder of Magdalen college.

In the church are ſome memorials of the Woodnoths. The rectory was given to the priory of Luffield by an anceſtor of the Barons of Wolverton, and the great tithes were appropriated to that monaſtery. After the reformation the rectory was for many years annexed to the manor, but is now the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, who is patron of the vicarage. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1797, when an allotment of land was given to the Marquis of Buckingham as rector, another allotment to the family of Lowndes as proprietors of a portion of tithes, and a corn rent to the vicar with a ſmall allotment of land not exceeding 15 acres. An allotment of land was aſſigned to the poor in lieu of their right of cutting furze.

THORNTON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about four miles to the north-eaſt of the county town. The manor was anciently in the families of Iveri and St. Walery. From the latter it paſſed in marriage to Robert de Dreux, who was ſucceeded by the families of Hareng and Savage. About the year 1264, it became the property of the Chaſtillons, who had a ſeat at Thornton and were of conſiderable conſequence in the county for more than a century, during the greater part of which time ſome of the family were knights of the ſhire. In 1414 this manor paſſed by purchaſe to the Bartons, and from them in 1464 to the Ingeltons. Robert Ingelton of this place was Chancellor of the Exchequer to King Edward IV. Jane, only daughter of George Ingelton, who died in 1503, married Humphrey Tyrrell (of the ancient family of the Tyrrells of Eſſex) who ſeated himſelf at Thornton and was anceſtor of the Tyrrells of this place, the Tyrrells of Caſtlethorpe, and the Tyrrells of Oakley in this county. Sir Edward Tyrrell of Thornton was created a baronet in 1627: the title became extinct by the death of Sir Thomas Tyrrell bart. in 1755. Thornton is now the property and ſeat of Thomas Sheppard eſq. whoſe mother (the lady of Dr. Cotton) was daughter of Sir Charles Tyrrell bart. couſin and immediate predeceſſor of Sir Thomas Tyrrell above mentioned.

The ancient ſeat of the Tyrrells was modernized by the late Dr. Cotton: Browne Willis deſcribes it as a quadrangular building of great antiquity and ſpeaks of a noble gallery 125 feet in length.

The pariſh church has been very neatly and commodiouſly fitted up by the preſent lord of the manor, but the antiquary will regret the removal of the ancient monuments. The effigies on braſs plates of Robert Ingelton, chancellor of the exchequer, who died in 1472, and his three wives, and that of Jane Ingelton, who brought Thornton to the Tyrrells, are all in remarkably fine preſervation, but cannot be expected to remain ſo much longer, for the altar tombs on which they were fixed, having been removed, they are now placed on the ground on each ſide the altar. The effigies in alabaſter of John Barton, founder of a chantry at Thornton, who died in 1443, and that of his wife Iſabella, have been removed from under an arch between the church and chancel to the weſt end, where they now occupy each ſide of the entrance to the church. There are no memorials for the family of Tyrrell, excepting a tablet for the laſt baronet. Mr. Sheppard is patron of the rectory. William Bredon, rector of this pariſh, who died in 1638, was celebrated for his ſkill in calculating nativities, and had a ſhare in compoſing Sir Chriſtopher Heydon's Judicial Aſtrology.

Tingewick, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies two miles and a half weſt of Buckingham, on the road to Banbury. It had formerly a weekly market on Tueſdays, granted in 1246, to the abbey *De Monte Rothomago*, in Normandy, to which monaſtery the manor had been given by the family of Finmore, in 1210: it was purchaſed of the abbey, by William of Wickham, and by him made part of the endowment of New College, in Oxford.

In the pariſh church is a curious braſs plate againſt the eaſt wall of the chancel, with a half-length portrait of Eraſmus Williams, rector of Tingewick, who died in 1608, neatly engraved. He is repreſented with uplifted hands, in the attitude of prayer, and habited in a gown. On each ſide of him is a pillar, on which hang aſtronomical, muſical, and geometrical inſtruments, painting utenſils, various books, &c. On the top of one of the pillars is a globe, on the other an owl. There are various other devices, as a ſun and rainbow, &c. and ſeveral texts of ſcripture. Underneath is the following epitaph:

" This doth Eraſmus Williams repreſent,
" Whom living all did love, dead all lament;
" His humane Arts behind his back attend,
" Whereon ſpare hours he wiſely choſe to ſpend;
" And from Corinthian columns deck'd with arts
" Now to the Temple's pillar he converts,
" Under the rainbow arch of promiſe, where
" Of hoped bliſs no deluge he need fear:

" He of this church did a firm pillar live,
" To whom dead his wife doth theſe pillars give.
" Continued by his ſcholar and his friend,
" Who wiſh'd their love and lives had had one end,
" Eraſmus More's Encomium ſet forth,
" We want a More to praiſe Eraſmus' worth.

At the corner is the name of R. Haydocke, who, if he wrote the epitaph, was a much better artiſt than poet. That he was the artiſt there can be little doubt, and that it was Dr. Richard Haydocke, the phyſician, who was a contemporary of Mr. Williams: he tranſlated Lomatius on painting and engraving, and engraved his own portrait and other plates for that work.

The warden and ſcholars of New College are patrons of the rectory, to which a manor is annexed. The advowſon belonged formerly to the priory of Harmondsworth, in Middleſex[a]. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1773, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes, and a ſmall allotment to the poor in lieu of their right to cut furze.

Francis Edmonds, the late rector, who died in 1759, founded a charity ſchool for ſix boys and ſix girls, and left an endowment for inſtructing and clothing them.

Tottenhoe, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about ſix miles north-eaſt of Winſlow, and about the ſame diſtance ſouth-eaſt of Stony-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the family of Martell, who founded the neighbouring monaſtery of Snellſhall, afterwards till 1416 in the Jarponvilles. In 1477, having in the mean time paſſed through ſeveral hands, it was purchaſed by Thomas Stafford, deſcended from a younger branch of the family of Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, and ſon of Sir Humphrey Stafford, who was ſlain by Jack Cade. This Thomas Stafford left a natural ſon, whoſe deſcendants had for many generations a ſeat at Tottenhoe, and continued poſſeſſed of the manor till it was mortgaged by Charles Stafford, the laſt of the family, who diſſipated his eſtate, and died in great poverty in 1716. The manor of Tottenhoe having been firſt mortgaged to them, was purchaſed by the Selby family, and is now the property of William Selby eſq. of Winſlow.

There are no remains of the manor-houſe: the church, a ſmall mean building, ſtands within its moated ſite. It was rebuilt in 1540, but the pariſh being ſmall, it had been for ſome time diſuſed and deſecrated, when upon the rector of Shenley laying claim to the tithes of Tottenhoe, Mr. Stafford, then proprietor of the manor,

[a] Placit Inquiſ, &c. de terris in Turr. Lond. Co. Bucks. No. 15.

procured

procured it to be re-conſecrated, in 1636, and endowing it with tithes, preſented to the benefice as a rectory. The great tithes were formerly appropriated to the priory of Snellſhall. This pariſh contains only four houſes.

TOWERSEY, in the hundred of Aſhendon, about two miles eaſt of Thame, in Oxfordſhire, lies within the county of Buckingham, but is a hamlet belonging to that town: it has a chapel of eaſe. The manor has been for ſome years the property of George Bowden eſq. it was before in Lord Wentworth's family.

TURVILLE, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about eight miles weſt of Wycombe, about ſeven miles north-weſt of Marlow, and about the ſame diſtance from Henley. There are two manors in this pariſh, one of which was in the family of Morteyne, from the reign of Edward I. till about the year 1406, when it paſſed by a female heir to the Botilers. In 1546, it was purchaſed by Sir John Williams, and ſoon afterwards paſſed to the ancient family of Doyley, and from them about the year 1703, by marriage to the Pocockes. In 1753, it was purchaſed of Mrs. Pococke, a widow lady, by John Oſborne, the celebrated bookſeller, whoſe ſon is the preſent proprietor.

The other manor belonged to the abbey of St. Alban's, and was granted by King Henry VIII. to Edward Chamberleyne, who conveyed it to the Dormer family. In 1653, John Ovey eſq. bought the whole, or a part of this eſtate of Mr. Weſt, who had not long before purchaſed it of the Dormers. From Mr. Ovey's family it paſſed by marriage to the Perrys. Mr. Perry, who married one of the coheireſſes of the Sidneys, Earls of Leiceſter, built a fine ſeat at Turville park, and was ſheriff of the county in 1741. Turville park is now the property and ſeat of Thomas Butlin eſq. who purchaſed it of Mr. Shelly, ſon-in-law, and in right of his wife, heir of Mr. Perry.

In the church are ſome memorials of the families of Doyley, Pococke, and Perry. The rectory, which was appropriated to the abbey of St. Alban's, is now in ſeveralties, together with the advowſon of the vicarage.

TURWESTON, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies on the borders of Northamptonſhire, near Brackley, about ſix miles and a half from Buckingham. Before the reign of Edward the firſt, the manor belonged ſucceſſively to the families of Fulgeres, Stovill, and Baynell. Having eſcheated to the crown, it was given by king Edward I. to the monks of Weſtminſter, and after the reformation formed a part of the endowment of the dean and chapter. The manor houſe was

rented many years ago by Lord Viſcount Hillſborough, which occaſioned the author of an Iriſh peerage, publiſhed in 1722, to inſert it as one of the ſeats of that family: it is at preſent unoccupied. The leaſe of the manor is now veſted in the repreſentatives of the late Mr. Derbiſhire, before it came into his poſſeſſion, it had been for ſome time in the family of Welchman. The dean and chapter of Weſtminſter are patrons of the rectory.

TWYFORD, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about ſeven miles ſouth-weſt of Buckingham. The manor was anciently in the family of Fulgeres, and having been forfeited to the crown, was given to William Marſhall, Earl of Pembroke. In the reign of Henry III. it was the property of Ralph Fitz-Nicholas, who had a grant of a fair at Twyford, in 1251. Ralph, his younger ſon, who took the ſurname of Pipard, and was ſteward of the king's hawks, ſucceeded his father in this manor. From his family it paſſed by marriage to the Botelers, Earls of Ormond, and was held under them by the family of Giffard, who afterwards became poſſeſſed of the fee. Urſula, daughter and heir of Thomas Giffard, who died in 1550, brought this manor in marriage to Thomas Wenman eſq. anceſtor of the late Lord Viſcount Wenman. It is now veſted in his lordſhip's executor, in truſt for his nephew P. T. Wykham eſq. The Giffards were ſeated at Twyford, as early as the year 1340; it was afterwards a principal ſeat of the Wenman family: the ancient manor-houſe having gone to decay, they reſided afterwards at a houſe called the Lodge. Twyford was wholly deſerted by them, about the beginning of the laſt century, when the lodge was converted into a farm-houſe. The church of Twyford continued to be the family burial place, and there are ſeveral monuments for them, but none which require any particular deſcription. An ancient monument of a cruſader is ſuppoſed to have been intended for Sir John Giffard, or one of that family. The ſouth door of the church has a curious Saxon arch.

The advowſon of the rectory was given by the family of Fulgeres, to the monaſtery of Fengers, in Normandy. In the reign of Henry III. the abbot gave it to the ſee of Lincoln, in which it continued till 1475, when Biſhop Rotheram, one of the founders of Lincoln College, annexed it for ever to the rectorſhip of that ſociety.

*Charndon* and *Poundon* are hamlets of this pariſh. Twyford and Charndon were incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1774; when an allotment was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes. A good houſe has been built on this allotment, which is the ſummer reſidence of the rector of Lincoln College. The curate reſides in the old parſonage-houſe near the church.

TYRINGHAM,

TYRINGHAM, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles from Newport-Pagnell, near the road to Northampton. The manor belonged to the ancient family who took their name from the village, as early as the year 1170. They continued to flouriſh at this place, which was their principal ſeat, and occaſionally filled the moſt diſtinguiſhed offices in the county, till the year 1685, when the elder branch became extinct in the male line, by the death of Sir William Tyringham, whoſe daughter and heir brought this eſtate in marriage to John Backwell eſq. It is now by deſcent from the Backwells, the property of William Praed eſq. who has pulled down the old manor-houſe, and built in its ſtead an elegant modern manſion. In the pariſh church are ſome memorials of the family of Tyringham. Mr. Praed is patron of the rectory, which was united to Filgrave in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the advowſon was formerly in the priory of Tickford, by gift from the Tyringhams. Tyringham and Filgrave are now conſidered as one pariſh; Tyringham, when ſeparate, conſiſted only of two houſes, the united pariſh has now 24: the church of Filgrave is in ruins. The manor of Filgrave was anciently in the families of Paganell and Somery; it afterwards came to the Tyringhams, and has ſince been annexed to the manor of Tyringham.

UPTON, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies about three miles and a half to the north-weſt of Colnbrook, near *Slough*, which is a hamlet of this pariſh. The manor of Upton *cum Chalvey*, which had belonged to Merton Abbey, was on leaſe to the Barkers, in the reign of James I; it is now the property of George Edwards eſq. of Henlow, in Bedfordſhire, whoſe family poſſeſſed it as early as the year 1725; it was before in the Lanes.

Upton Court, a manor farm, now the property of William Laſcelles eſq. a bencher of the Inner-Temple, was many years in the family of Lane, of whom it was purchaſed by the grandfather of the preſent proprietor.

In the pariſh church, which is an ancient Saxon ſtructure, are memorials for Edward Bulſtrode, Squire of the body to King Henry VII. and King Henry VIII. and others of that ancient family, who were of Bulſtrode in this pariſh: in the church-yard are memorials of the Lanes.

The rectory of Upton, which was given to Merton Abbey, by Paganus de Beauchamp, became the property of Eton College, by an exchange many years before the reformation: the vicarage is in the gift of the crown.

Bulſtrode, the ſeat of the ancient family of that name, became afterwards the property and reſidence of that deteſted character, Lord Chancellor Jefferies, who being then Sir George Jefferies knt. and chief juſtice of Cheſter, and deſcribed as of Bulſtrode, in the county of Buckingham, was made a baronet in the year 1681.

It

It has been erroneouſly ſuppoſed that Bulſtrode was forfeited by his attainder at the revolution, and given to the Earl of Portland; the fact is, that it was purchaſed by that Nobleman, of Mr. Dyve, ſon-in-law of the chancellor, about the latter end of King William's reign: the earl, who had the chief ſuperintendance of the expedition, which placed that monarch on the throne of theſe realms, was ſometimes viſited by his royal maſter at Bulſtrode. After the king's death he retired wholly to this place, where he took great delight in improving his gardens, and where he died in 1709: his ſon, who was created Duke of Portland in 1716, was grandfather to the preſent noble owner of Bulſtrode.

Bulſtrode houſe was built in 1686, by Lord Chancellor Jefferies; the offices are the remains of an older manſion, which it is probable was built by the Bulſtrodes. At Bulſtrode houſe is a ſmall collection of pictures, by the old maſters, among which the moſt remarkable are a holy family by Raphael, St. Cecilia by Carlo Dolce, and Orpheus charming the brutes by Roland Savery. Among the portraits are the firſt Earl of Portland, and others of this noble family; and Henry Wriotheſley, Earl of Southampton, with the cat that accompanied him in the tower. The park, which contains about eight hundred acres, exhibits a pleaſing variety of ſurface, and is well wooded.

The manor of Bulſtrode belonged formerly to the abbeſs and convent of Burnham; in 1337, they had the king's licence to alienate it to William Montacute, earl of Saliſbury [b], who the ſame year gave it to the monks of Biſham [b]. This manor was purchaſed of Sir William Bowyer, by Sir Roger Hill, and by him ſold in 1686, to Lord Chancellor Jefferies [d]; it has ſince paſſed with Bulſtrode houſe, and is now the property of the Duke of Portland.

*Slough*, a well-known thoroughfare on the Bath road, is, as before-mentioned, a hamlet of Upton. It has for ſeveral years been the reſidence of the celebrated aſtronomer Dr. Herſchel. The forty feet teleſcope of his own conſtruction, with which he has made moſt of thoſe diſcoveries which will immortalize his name, ſtands in his garden at this place.

*Chalvey* is another hamlet in this pariſh.

WADDESDON, in the hundred of Aſhendon, gives name to the deanery in which it is ſituated. It lies about five miles and a half from Aylesbury, on the road to Biceſter. The manor, which ſucceſſively belonged to Robert Doyley and his ſons-in-law, Milo Criſpin and Brien Fitzcount, was ſeized by King Henry II. on the

[b] Pat. 11 Edw. III. [c] Ibid. [d] From the information of Mr. Way of Denham.

latter

latter having aſſumed a religious order, and given to the Courtenays. In conſequence of the attainder of one of that family, it was by two ſeveral grants in the poſſeſſion of Archbiſhop Neville and Henry Bouchier, Earl of Eſſex. It was afterwards reſtored to the Courtenays, but being again forfeited, was granted by King Henry VIII. in 1540, to the Goodwins, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the noble family of Wharton. It is now the property of his grace the Duke of Marlborough, whoſe father purchaſed it of the laſt Duke of Wharton or his repreſentatives, together with the manors of Ham, Weſtcote, and Warmeſton, in this pariſh, all of which had belonged to the Goodwins. The manor of Weſtcote was part of the eſtates of Thomas Duke of Glouceſter, who was murdered in 1398.

Ethorp, in this pariſh, was the manor and ſeat of the ancient family of De Arcubus or Arches, as early as the year 1309. Richard de Arches, of Ethorp, was one of the knights of the ſhire in 1402; not long afterwards Ethorp became the ſeat of the Denhams: Sir John Denham died, ſeiſed of it in 1458. The ſame year Roger Denham, who it is probable was his ſon and heir, built and endowed a chantry chapel at this place. In the reign of Edward VI. Ethorp belonged to the Dormers, and was ſettled by Sir William Dormer, on his wife Dorothy, the daughter and coheir of Anthony Cateſby eſq; this lady, after the death of her firſt huſband, married the brave Sir William Pelham, who diſtinguiſhed himſelf during the wars in the Netherlands, and died at Fluſhing in 1587. Ethorp was his country ſeat, as appears by his laſt will, in which he leaves all his furniture there to his wife Dorothy, who ſurvived him many years, and in 1610 built ſome additional rooms at the weſt end of the houſe, in one of which are to be ſeen her arms and initials, with the above date over a chimney piece. The armoury, which has a wooden ſloping roof, ornamented with red and white roſes, was built by Sir William Dormer; at the baſe of the rafters are angels bearing ſhields, with arms of the family of Dormer and their alliances; it is hung round with a variety of ancient armour and accoutrements. From the Dormers Ethorp paſſed by marriage to the Stanhopes, and was the country ſeat of Sir William Stanhope, who added the more modern part of the houſe, and erected ſeveral large buildings in the pleaſure grounds and plantations, reſembling the ruins of amphitheatres, caſtles, &c. In 1728, at the deſire of his lady, he fitted up the chantry chapel at Ethorp, and divine ſervice was performed in it for a few years; but in 1738, ſays Browne Willis, "he moſt wickedly, ſacrilegiouſly, and impiouſly demoliſhed the chapel, though warned againſt it by Dr. Carmichael," and made uſe of the ſtones to build a bridge, which he was then about to throw over the Thame, near the houſe. Before the abolition of chantries, the prieſt had his lodging and maintenance at

Sir Robert Dormer's houſe. Ethorp is now the property of the Earl of Cheſterfield, but he ſeldom viſits it, and the greater part of the furniture has been removed. Among the few pictures which remained there in 1801, was a good portrait of Charles the Firſt, with his ſon and ſucceſſor when a boy; Robert Dormer, Earl of Carnarvon, who fell at the battle of Newbury, and his counteſs; Lucy, Counteſs of Bedford, Sir William Stanhope, and Philip, Earl of Cheſterfield. The gallery, 138 feet in length, appears to have been fitted up about the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

*Blagrave*, a manor farm in the pariſh of Waddeſdon, has within the laſt century undergone ſeveral alienations; it is now the property of Charles Shaw Lefevre eſq. M. P.

The manor, or manor farm, of Colwick, Collet or Collick, in this pariſh, belonged for ſeveral years to the Deacles, and is now by marriage the property of Mr. Griffith.

The manor, or manor farm of Cranwell, in this pariſh, is the property of Richard Bard Harcourt eſq.

In the pariſh church of Waddeſdon is the monument of Guy Carleton, a veteran ſoldier, who died June 1, 1608, aged 94. It is not improbable that he was an anceſtor of his nameſake Sir Guy Carleton Lord Dorcheſter, who has followed his ſteps in the field of valour, and attained more honourable diſtinction. On his monument is the following epitaph:

"Whilſt I was young, in wars I ſhed my blood,
Both for my king and for my Country's good;
In elder years my care was chief to be
Soldier to him who ſhed his blood for me."

The rectory of Waddeſdon is divided into three portions; the portioniſts reſide and officiate alternately; the Patronage of all three is veſted in the Duke of Marlborough. Robert Parſons, one of the portioniſts of Waddeſdon, preached the funeral ſermon on the death of the celebrated Earl of Rocheſter, which is printed at the end of Biſhop Burnet's memoirs of that nobleman.

Sir Francis Goodwin founded an alms-houſe at Waddeſdon, for ſix poor perſons, and endowed it with 30*l. per annum*. Mr. Lewis Fetto founded a charity ſchool at this place, in 1724.

*Weſtcote* and *Woodham* are hamlets or tithings belonging to this pariſh. Certain fields in the tithing of Weſtcote were incloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1765. The whole pariſh has been ſince incloſed by an act paſſed in 1774, when

allotments of land were aſſigned in lieu of tithes, to the portioniſts, and a compoſition directed to be paid for the tithes of old incloſures.

WALTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about three miles to the north of Fenny-Stratford. There were anciently two manors in this pariſh, one of which was, about the year 1200, in the family of Rixband, afterwards in the Hunts, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Longuevilles. It was purchaſed of the latter by Bartholomew Beale, whoſe ſon Charles was huſband of Mrs. Beale the painter. About the latter end of the ſeventeenth century Sir Thomas Pinfold bought this manor either immediately of the Beales, or of ſome perſons who had not long before purchaſed it of them. It is now the property of Charles Pinfold eſq. of Ayot St. Lawrence, in the county of Herts. The other manor was anciently in the family of Grey, and came to the crown in exchange in the year 1520. In 1627, it was granted to Williams and others, of whom it was ſoon afterwards purchaſed by Mr. Beale, ſince which time the two manors have been united.

In the pariſh church is the monument of Bartholomew Beale, lord of the manor, who died in 1660, put up in 1672, by his ſons Charles and Henry, at the expence of 45l. as appears by an extract from Mrs. Beale's pocket book, printed in Lord Orford's anecdotes of painting, where by a miſtake this monument is ſaid to be at Walton upon Thames, in Surrey. The medallions of Mr. Beale and his wife, in bas relief, are placed in circular niches, and do credit to the artiſt, Thomas Burman, of whom little is known, but that he was the maſter of Buſhnell, who attained much greater celebrity as a ſtatuary. In this church is the monument alſo of Sir Thomas Pinfold, chancellor of the dioceſe of Peterborough, and commiſſary of St. Paul's, who died in 1701, with his medallion, by Nollekens, and an epitaph on Elizabeth Pixe, who died in 1617, which reminds us of Biſhop Lowth's celebrated epitaph on his daughter:

"Elizabetha vale, mea Lux, mea vita, quouſque
Jungitur in cœlis, filia chara vale."

The rectory is in the alternate preſentation of the crown, and of Mr. Pinfold, as lord of the manor.

WAVENDON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies on the borders of Bedfordſhire, in the great road to London, five miles from Newport-Pagnell, and four from Woburn. The principal manor was in the Paſſelews, from 1180 till 1313, and afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Peyvre, Green, Stafford, Fitz-

hugh, Cranwell, Beale, Cullen, and Iſaacſon. It is now the property of Mrs. Deniſon, widow of the late principal of Magdalen-Hall, in Oxford, who is deſcended from the Iſaacſons.

Another manor paſſed from the Bolebecs, by female heirs, to the Veres and Courtenays. This manor, or reputed manor, which had been before demiſed to John Sheppard, was granted in fee to him and his heirs, in 1557, as having been then lately the property of the attainted Marquis of Exeter. Some pits of fullers earth are mentioned in the grant as being on this eſtate. It has ſince been in the family of Wells, and is now the property of Mr. Dixie.

A third manor, or reputed manor, which had been given by the Bolebecs or Veres, to Woburn Abbey, was granted in 1559, to Campion and Thompſon. It has ſince been divided into ſeveralties. The act of parliament which paſſed in 1788, for incloſing this pariſh, deſcribes the ſeveral owners of theſe eſtates, as claiming the manor of Wavendon and a right to the heath. The claims were to be examined into, and the act allots land to the lord of the manor "*if any.*" The commiſſioners, after examining into the ſeveral claims, determined that Mrs. Deniſon's was the only eſtate entitled to an allotment on account of manorial rights.

Mr. Serjeant Selby had an eſtate in this pariſh, on which he built a houſe for his own reſidence. Since the death of his ſon, the late Mr. Selby, it has paſſed through ſeveral hands, and is now the property and reſidence of Henry Hugh Hoare eſq.

Mr. Selby was patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newport-Pagnell. The advowſon is now veſted in Mr. Leonard Hampſon of Luton. The act of parliament abovementioned did not exonerate this pariſh from tithes.

In the church are ſome memorials of the family of Saunders, of Battleſden, among which is that of Richard Saunders eſq. who died in 1639, having had 27 children by four wives. Mr. George Wells, who died in 1714, and his nicce, Mrs. Miller, gave the ſum of 1000l. with which a charity ſchool was built, and endowed with lands, producing a rent of 40l. *per annum* for inſtructing, clothing, and apprenticing 10 boys.

WENDOVER, in the hundred of Ayleſbury, is a market town, 35 miles from London, on the road to Ayleſbury and Buckingham. It gives name to the deanery in which it is ſituated. The earlieſt charter for a market to be found on record, is in 1403. A ſubſequent charter of the year 1464, confirms a market on Thurſdays, and two fairs[a] to the men of Wendover[b]. The market, which is now on

[a] At the feſtival of St. Matthew, and St. Philip and St. James. [b] Pat. 4 Edw. IV. p. 2.

Tueſdays, is very inconſiderable. John Molins had a grant of a fair on the feſtival of St. Barnabas in 1349. The preſent fairs are May 13 and October 2.

The town of Wendover ſent members to parliament as early as the year 1300. This privilege, after a diſcontinuance of above 300 years, was reſtored in 1623, by the exertions of Mr. Hakeville, a barriſter of Lincoln's Inn. The right of election is veſted in all the houſe-keepers reſiding within the limits of the borough, and not receiving alms. The celebrated John Hampden, the patriot, repreſented the borough of Wendover in five parliaments.

The manor was given by King Henry II. to Faramus de Boulogne, and from him deſcended by a female heir to the family of Fiennes. It having been forfeited by an attainder, King Edward III. gave it to Sir John Molins, in 1341. Having reverted to the crown in the ſame reign, it was given to Alice Perrers, the king's favorite, on whoſe diſgrace at the commencement of the enſuing reign, it was ſeized by King Richard II. who granted it in 1380 to his half brother, Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent[c], and in 1388, to Edward Duke of York[d], who dying without male iſſue, it reverted to the crown, and was from time to time granted for life to the queen or ſome of the branches of the royal family, till the year 1564, when it was granted in fee to Sir Francis Knollys, and Catherine his wife. About the year 1660, it was purchaſed by the Hampden family, in whom the fee is ſtill veſted, ſubject to an intereſt in it, purchaſed by Lord Carrington, during the life of the preſent Lord Hampden.

The manor of Martyns, in Wendover, which had belonged to the Dormers, was purchaſed of that family, in 1670, by Thomas Lewes eſq. alderman of London, and paſſed with Weſt-Wycombe to the Daſhwoods. It is now the property of Matthew Raper eſq. The manor of Wyvelſgate, in Wendover, has been many years in the family of Colet or Collett. Sir Henry Colet, lord mayor of London, and father of Dean Colet, the founder of St. Paul's ſchool, was of this family, and born in the pariſh of Wendover. The family of Collet has lately become extinct in the male line; and on the death of the laſt Mr. Collett, the eſtate devolved to his nephew, Mr. Richard Stratfold, who has taken the name of Collett in addition to his own. The mercers company have the manor of Hale in this pariſh, being part of the eſtate left by Dr. John Colet, dean of St. Paul's, to that company for charitable uſes.

The pariſh church, which ſtands a quarter of a mile from the town, contains no monuments worthy of notice. There are the remains of a chapel in the town,

[c] Pat. 4 Rich. II. [d] Pat. 12 Rich. II.

which was dedicated to St. John. It has been long diſuſed. The vicarage is in the gift of the crown. In 1771, an act of parliament paſſed for making exchanges in this pariſh, and ſettling a corn-rent on the vicar in lieu of tithes. Another act for the incloſure of the whole pariſh excepting Bottendown-hill, paſſed in 1794, when allotments of land were made to Lord Hampden, Matthew Raper, and others as impropriators, and to the vicar, for the glebe and vicarial tithes. The great tithes were formerly appropriated to the monaſtery of St. Mary Overie, in Southwark.

Roger de Wendover, the hiſtorian, who was hiſtoriographer to King Henry III. is ſaid to have been a native of this place.

WESTBURY, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about five miles north-weſt of the county town, near the road to Brackley. The manor was ſucceſſively in the families of Iveri, St. Walery, Hareng, and L'Eſtrange. From the latter, who poſſeſſed it as early as the year 1310, it paſſed about two hundred years afterwards by a female heir to the Mordaunts. Sir L'Eſtrange Mordaunt bart. ſold it in 1613 to the Waſhingtons, from whom it paſſed in 1639 to the Lytteltons. It is now the property of J. P. Withers, a minor, deſcended in the female line from the Prices, whoſe anceſtor, Roger Price eſq. purchaſed it of the Lytteltons in 1650.

The Marquis of Buckingham claims a paramount manor over this pariſh, as having been anciently part of the honor of Wallingford, and afterwards of that of Ewelme. This right is inherited from the Temples, and is ſuppoſed by Browne Willis to have been derived from royal grant, in the reign of James I. The rectory, to which a manor was annexed, belonged formerly to the abbey of Elſtow, near Bedford. After the reformation it was granted to the Welleſbourns, and from them paſſed by a female heir to the family of Sill. The Lytteltons having purchaſed it in 1642, it has ever ſince been annexed to the lay manor. The rectorial houſe, (now pulled down,) was the ſeat of the Lytteltons for a ſhort time, and afterwards of the Prices. In 1643, being then the ſeat of Sir Thomas Lyttelton, it was plundered by ſome of the parliamentary army. The advowſon of the vicarage[c] is annexed to the rectorial manor. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1763, when allotments of land were aſſigned in lieu of the great and ſmall tithes.

[c] Browne Willis ſays, that Roger Price, who purchaſed the eſtate of the Lytteltons, rebuilt the vicarage houſe, and endowed the vicarage with the great tithes; but there muſt be ſome miſtake in this account; the rectorial eſtate being now the property of the lord of the manor, to whom an allotment of land in lieu of the great tithes was made under the incloſure act.

WESTON-

WESTON-TURVILLE, in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover, lies about three miles and a half to the south-east of Aylesbury, between the roads to Tring and Wendover. It derived its distinguishing name from a family who possessed the manor in the reign of king John. The king is now Lord Paramount in right of the duchy of Lancaster, and there are at least three subordinate manors in this parish. One of these was in the Mowbrays, afterwards in the Penns, and is now by female descent the property of Lord Curzon.

Another manor belongs to the mercers company, to whom it was given by Dr. John Colet, Dean of St. Paul's, in trust for charitable purposes.

The manors of Botelers and Molins have been long united. The former belonged to the Botelers, who gave name to it, and passed from them to the Talbots Earls of Shrewsbury. Molins was the property of Sir John Molins, who had the king's licence to embattle his house at Turville in 1331. From him it passed by inheritance to the families of Hungerford and Hastings. Both these manors belonged to the Windsor family in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards for many years to the Hills. They are now the property of Mrs. Tomkins, whose husband's family became possessed of them about the middle of the last century. The manor of Broughton-Stavely, alias Broughton-Holland, lately belonging to Sir John Pakington, and now by a recent purchase to the Marquis of Buckingham, extends over a part of this parish. The rectory is in the gift of the warden and scholars of All Souls College in Oxford, who purchased the advowson of the Hills about the year 1704. The parish of Weston-Turville has been inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1798, when an allotment of land was assigned to the rector in lieu of tithes. *Bedgrove* is a hamlet of this parish.

WESTON-UNDERWOOD, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about two miles west of Olney. The manor was anciently in the family of Boson, or Bosun, from whom it passed by female heirs to the Olneys and Throckmortons. It is now the property and seat of George, a younger brother of Sir John Throckmorton bart., who has taken the name of Courtenay.

In the parish church, which was formerly a chapel of ease to Olney, are a few memorials of the Throckmortons. Mr. Courtenay is improprietor of the great tithes, and patron of the curacy.

Cowper the poet resided for several years, during the latter part of his life, at this village, in a house now inhabited by a shopkeeper. Most of his descriptions of rural scenery were drawn from nature in his walks round this place.

WEXHAM, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, lies about four miles to the north-weſt of Colnbrook, and about a mile and a half to the north of the great road to Bath. The manor belonged to Merton Abbey in Surrey[f]; afterwards to the Winwoods, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the Duke of Montagu. It is now the property of the Right Honourable Lord Francis Godolphin Oſborne, by bequeſt from the late Lord Godolphin. The rectory is in the gift of the crown. The advowſon belonged formerly to the monaſtery of St. Mary Overie in Southwark. The learned Biſhop Fleetwood, before his promotion to the bench, was rector of Wexham. During his reſidence at this place, which was from 1705 to 1708, he publiſhed his Chronicon Pretioſum. In 1708 he was made Biſhop[g] of St. Aſaph.

WHADDON, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about four miles ſouth of Stony-Stratford, and about five miles nearly north of Winſlow. The manor of Whaddon, with the office of Keeper of the Chace, was anciently in the Giffards. It was ſeized by the crown in the reign of King John, and granted to the Earl of Arundel. By a ſubſequent grant, in 1245, it was given to the Fitzjefferys, from whom it deſcended by heirs female to Lionel Duke of Clarence, to the Mortimers, and the Plantagenets, by which means it became again veſted in the crown. The manor of Whaddon was a part of Jane Seymour's dower. It was afterwards given to the Pigots, and by them ſold to the noble family of Grey of Wilton. Whaddon was the ſeat of the brave Arthur Lord Grey, who, in 1568, was honoured with a viſit by Queen Elizabeth, then on her Buckinghamſhire progreſs. Edmund Spenſer, the poet, who was his ſecretary, is ſaid to have been frequently reſident with him at this place[h]. On the attainder of William Lord Grey, for being concerned with Sir Walter Ralegh in ſome treaſonable practices, this manor was given to Sir George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham, who occaſionally reſided at Whaddon-hall, from whence he took the title of Baron. In 1698, the manor and chace were purchaſed of the repreſentatives of the ſecond duke, by James Selby eſq. and Dr. Willis the celebrated phyſician. The manor, on a partition, became the property of Dr. Willis, and was inherited by his grandſon, Browne Willis the antiquary, who reſided many years at Whaddon-hall, which was purchaſed, with the manor, of his repreſentatives, by the late Mr. Selby, who, on the ſuppoſition that no heir at law could be found to inherit his eſtates, which proved to be the caſe, bequeathed the manor and other property to William Lowndes eſq. of Winſlow, who has taken the name of Selby. Whad-

[f] Manning Surrey, vol. i. p. 247. [g] Alumni Eboreneſes. [h] See Stukeley's Itinerary.

don-hall

don-hall is now the reſidence of his eldeſt ſon, William Lowndes eſq. In the pariſh church are the monuments of Thomas Pigot ſerjeant at law, who died in 1519; and of Arthur Lord Grey, of Wilton, who died in 1593. The great tithes of this pariſh, which belonged formerly to the priory of Newenton-Longueville, were given by William of Wickham to New College in Oxford, together with the advowſon of the vicarage.

Dr. Cox, Biſhop of Ely, who was tutor to King Edward VI. and one of the compoſers of the liturgy, was a native of Whaddon.

The late Mr. Coare of Newgate-ſtreet, founded a charity ſchool at Whaddon for 20 children, and endowed it with 10l. *per annum.* He built an alms houſe alſo, but did not live to complete his intention of endowing it.

Ralph Martell, in the reign of King Henry III. founded a ſmall priory of monks of the Benedictine order at Snelſhall, now called Snelſoe green, in this pariſh. The prior had a grant of a weekly market on Thurſdays at Snelſhall, in 1227. The revenues of the priory were eſtimated at the time of its ſuppreſſion at only 18l. 1s. 11d. clear yearly value. The ſite was granted at three ſeveral times to Francis Pigot, Sir Thomas Palmer, and Edmund Aſhfield. From the latter it paſſed by a female heir to the Forteſcues, who in 1619 ſold it to the Duke of Buckingham. It was included in the purchaſe made by Selby and Willis in 1698, and has ſince paſſed with the manor of Whaddon. There are no remains of the conventual buildings which were in a ruinous ſtate when ſurveyed by the commiſſioners, previouſly to its ſuppreſſion, in the reign of King Henry VIII.

WHITCHURCH, in the hundred of Cotſlow, and deanery of Mureſley, lies about five miles from Ayleſbury in the road to Buckingham. It had formerly a market on Mondays, granted in 1245, together with a fair on the feſtival of St. John the Evangeliſt. The manor was anciently in the Giffards Earls of Buckingham, afterwards in the Bolebecs. Hugh de Bolebec built a caſtle at Whitchurch, of which the ſite is plainly diſcernible, cloſe to the village on the left hand as you paſs from Ayleſbury to Buckingham. From the Bolebecs this manor paſſed by a female heir to the Veres Earls of Oxford, by whom it was ſold in the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the family of Waterhouſe. It was afterwards ſucceſſively in the families of Watſon and Smith. In 1695, it was purchaſed of a ſon of Sir Edward Smith, Lord Chief Juſtice of the Common Pleas in Ireland, by the family of Reynolds, from whom it ſoon afterwards paſſed to the Ruſſells. In or about the year 1720, it was purchaſed of Governor John Ruſ-

ſell

ſell by the family of Rowlands of Caerau, in the iſle of Angleſea. This manor is now the property of dame Rebecca Williams, relict of Sir David Williams bart. and mother of the late Sir David Williams.

In the pariſh church is a monument of Chief Juſtice Smith, who died in 1682. The great tithes were appropriated to Woburn abbey. When the pariſh was incloſed under an act of parliament paſſed in 1771, allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriator and to the vicar in lieu of tithes. The rectorial eſtate is now the property of Major-general Northey Hopkins, under the will of his uncle the late Richard Hopkins eſq. of Oving. The vicarage is the gift of the crown.

OVER, or UPPER-WINCHENDON, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about ſix miles weſt of Ayleſbury. The manor was given by King Henry I. to the canons of St. Frideſwide in Oxford. After the ſuppreſſion of that convent it was given to Cardinal Wolſey. On the cardinal's fall the grant was reſumed, and it continued in the crown till 1623, when it was granted to the family of Goodwin, and paſſed in marriage with Jane, daughter and heir of Arthur Goodwin eſq. to Philip Lord Wharton: his ſon Thomas, who was in 1706 created Viſcount Winchendon, Earl, and afterwards Marquis of Wharton, made Winchendon his chief reſidence, having enlarged the manor-houſe, and made it a magnificent manſion. The gardens were eſteemed ſuperior to any then in the county, and were particularly celebrated for a fine collection of orange trees. Philip Lord Wharton, who ſucceeded his father in his title and eſtates, was, in 1718, created Duke of Wharton. Granger relates an anecdote of the facetious Colley Cibber, that riding with the duke in his coach at Winchendon, where the ſoil is a ſtiff clay, and the roads very deep and heavy, thus addreſſed himſelf to his noble companion: report ſays that your grace is running out of your eſtates, I am ſure that 'tis impoſſible for you to *run* out of *this*. The duke of Wharton having been attainted of treaſon for acting in favour of the pretender, and his eſtates confiſcated, the manor of Over-Winchendon, was ſold to Sarah, Ducheſs of Marlborough, and the houſe and gardens, after a very ſhort-lived fame, became dilapidated and neglected. The houſe was pulled down about the year 1760. Some of the offices have been fitted up for the reſidence of a ſteward. The eſtate is now the property of his grace the Duke of Marlborough, who has the impropriation of the great tithes formerly belonging to the canons of St. Frideſwide, and is patron of the vicarage.

In the church is the tomb of Sir John Stodel, a vicar of Winchendon, with his effigies on a braſs plate, remarkably well preſerved.

LOWER

LOWER OR NETHER-WINCHENDON, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies about ſeven miles weſt of Ayleſbury. A moiety of the manor was given to Nutley Abbey, by the founder, Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham. The other moiety, which had been the property of Robert Humet, conſtable to King Henry II. and had paſſed in marriage with his daughter and heir to Baldwin de Wake, was given to the ſame abbey in 1216. After the reformation, the ſite of the manor of Nether-Winchendon was granted to John Lord Ruſſel, whoſe ſon, Francis Earl of Bedford, ſold it to the Goodwins who in 1560 had a grant of the manor which had been reſerved by the crown. From the Goodwins this eſtate paſſed in marriage to the Tyringhams, a younger branch of which family ſeated themſelves here, and having ſurvived the elder branch, became extinct in the male line, by the death of Francis Tyringham eſq. in 1735, when the manor of Lower-Winchendon devolved to his ſiſter Mary, and afterwards to his couſin Jane, who married William Beresford eſq. and was many years lady of this manor, which ſhe bequeathed to her maternal couſin german, the late Sir Francis Bernard bart. It is now the property and ſeat of his younger ſon, Strope Bernard eſq.

The Marquis of Buckingham has a manor farm in Nether-Winchendon, called the Marſh, which has been many years in the Grenville family.

The great tithes of Nether-Winchendon, which appears to have been formerly a chapel to Crendon, were given to Nutley Abbey by the founder. The pariſh having been incloſed in the reign of James the Firſt, the lands have ſince that time been tithe free. Mr. Bernard poſſeſſes the lay rectory, and is patron of the curacy.

WING, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies about eight miles north-eaſt of Ayleſbury, and about three miles and a half from Leighton-Buſard, in Bedfordſhire. The manor was given by the Empreſs Maud, to the abbot and convent of St. Nicholas at Angiers, who eſtabliſhed a cell of Benedictine monks at Aſcot, in this pariſh. This priory and the manor of Wing having been ſeized as the property of an alien monaſtery, were granted in 1416 to the nuns of St. Mary de Pré, near St. Alban's. On the ſuppreſſion of the ſmaller monaſteries, the manor of Wing was given to Cardinal Wolſey: having been reſumed by the king on his attainder, it was granted in 1532 to John Penn eſq. and in 1544, (the king it is probable having repoſſeſſed it by an exchange) to Sir Robert Dormer, who entertained the Princeſs Elizabeth at Aſcot-Houſe, in 1554, when on her road to London as a priſoner; ſoon after her ſiſter's acceſſion to the throne: his Grandſon, Sir Robert, was in 1615 created Baron Dormer of Wing. The eldeſt ſon of the firſt Lord Dormer, who was in 1628 created Viſcount Aſcot and Earl of Car-

narvon, loſt his life fighting bravely for his king at the battle of Newbury, in 1643. The titles of Earl of Carnarvon and Viſcount Aſcot became extinct on the death of Charles Earl of Carnarvon, without male iſſue, in 1709: the title of Baron Dormer of Wing devolved to the deſcendants of a younger ſon of the firſt Lord Dormer, who ſettled at Peterley, in this county. The manor of Wing, and moſt of the Buckinghamſhire eſtates, paſſed in marriage with his elder daughter and coheir, to Philip Earl of Cheſterfield, and were by him given to his ſecond ſon, Sir William Stanhope, who leaving no male iſſue, they deſcended to the preſent Earl of Cheſterfield. Aſcot-houſe, the ſeat of the Dormers, which was ſituated in Wing Park, is deſcribed by Browne Willis as having a noble apartment built by Inigo Jones. He ſays that it was ſuffered to go to decay after the year 1720, and that Sir William Stanhope, about the year 1727, ſold the deer out of the park, and cut down the timber, which was very fine. Mr. Willis mentions that he himſelf bought ſome of it at one ſhilling and ſixpence a foot, for building the chapel at Fenny-Stratford: he adds, that in his remembrance the laſt Earl of Carnarvon kept up great hoſpitality at Aſcot-houſe, and had a fine bowling green, which was conſtantly open for the amuſement of the neighbouring gentry. Wing Park ſtill remains incloſed, but the houſe has been many years pulled down.

King Edward II. in the year 1308, confirmed a manor in Wing, together with the advowſon of the priory, to John Warren, Earl of Surrey[a]. The earl gave it to his brother-in-law, Edmund Earl of Arundel, to whom it was confirmed by the king in 1315[b]. From the Earl of Arundel it deſcended by female heirs to the Mowbrays and Berkeleys. The Marquis of Berkeley gave it with other eſtates to Sir Reginald Bray: it is probable that it was purchaſed of his repreſentatives by the Dormer family.

The pariſh church is ſuppoſed to have been built ſoon after the manor was given to the nunnery of St. Mary de Pré. In the north aiſle is the tomb of Sir Robert Dormer, grantee of the manor, who died in 1552: in the burial place of the Dormers are handſome monuments of Sir William Dormer, who died in 1575, (with his effigies in gilt armour) and Robert the firſt Lord Dormer, who died in 1617: there are ſome monuments alſo for the family of Fines.

The great tithes of this pariſh were appropriated to the abbey of St. Nicholas, at Angiers, and afterwards to the nunnery of St. Mary de Pré. The rectorial eſtate is now the property of the Earl of Cheſterfield, who is patron of the vicarage. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1797, when allotments of land were given to the impropriator and the vicar, in lieu of tithes, and

[a] Pat. 2 Edw. II. [b] Pat. 8 Edw. II.

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an allotment to the poor for fuel. Dorothy Lady Pelham, ſometime wife of Sir William Dormer, founded an alms-houſe at Wing, in the year 1596, for eight poor perſons, and endowed it with 30l. *per annum.*

*Aſcot*, *Burcot*, and *Crofton*, are hamlets in this pariſh; *Cotſlow*, a depopulated hamlet, of which only one houſe remains, gives name to the hundred. The manor of Aſcot was given by Richard Grenville eſq. to Sir Robert Dormer, in exchange for an eſtate in Wotton, and has ſince paſſed with Wing.

WINGRAVE, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, lies nearly ſix miles north-eaſt of Ayleſbury. When this pariſh was incloſed by act of parliament in 1797, ſeparate and diſtinct manors were claimed by the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall; the Mercers' Company, the Rev. John Deacle as impropriator, the Earl of Cheſterfield, and John Tirel-Morin eſq. Lord Cheſterfield's manor was anciently the property and ſeat of the Pipards, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the Liſles: the marriage between Thomas Lord Berkeley, and Margaret the heireſs of that noble family, was celebrated in their manor-houſe at Wingrave: by ſubſequent alliances this manor paſſed to the Beauchamps and Nevilles; in 1531 it was purchaſed by the Hampdens, and in 1607 by the Dormers, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the Stanhopes.

The great tithes of this pariſh were appropriated to the abbey of St. Albans. A diſpute between John de Wedon and the abbot of St. Albans, about the patronage of this church, was determined in favor of the abbot in 1250[c]. The impropriate rectory having ſince the reformation been ſucceſſively in the families of Duncombe, Wilford, Abraham, Deane, and Balinger, has now been for a conſiderable time in the family of Deacle. The Earl of Bridgwater is patron of the vicarage.

*Rowſham*, a large hamlet in this pariſh, had formerly a chapel of eaſe. Sir John Cobham gave the manor to the crown in the reign of Edward III: it has long been annexed to Wingrave.

The pariſh of Wingrave, including the hamlet of Rowſham, has been incloſed as above-mentioned; allotments of land were made to the impropriator and vicar in lieu of tithes.

WINSLOW, in the hundred of Cotſlow and deanery of Mureſley, is a market town about fifty miles from London, on the road to Buckingham. The market, which is on Thurſdays, is very inconſiderable. It was granted, in 1235, to the abbot and convent of St. Albans, to whom the manor had been given by King Offa: the grant includes the right of holding a fair at the feſtival of St. Lawrence[d].

[c] M. Paris, p. 675. [d] Cart. 19 Hen. III.

There are now five annual fairs, March 20; Holy Thurſday; Auguſt 21; September 22; and the Thurſday before October 11. In 1599, the manor of Winſlow was granted to Sir John Forteſcue, who in 1619 ſold it to Sir George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham: it was purchaſed in 1697, under an act of parliament, of the repreſentatives of the ſecond duke, by William Lowndes eſq. ſecretary of the treaſury, and is now the property of his great-grandſon, William Selby eſq. who took that name on ſucceeding to the eſtates bequeathed to him by the late —— Selby eſq. Mr. Selby has a ſeat at Winſlow, which was built by Secretary Lowndes in the year 1700.

The pariſh church, which is a ſpacious Gothic ſtructure, contains no monuments worthy of notice. The great tithes, which were appropriated to the abbey of St. Albans, are the property of Mr. Selby: the vicarage, which is in the dioceſe of London, and in the peculiar juriſdiction of the archdeacon of St. Albans, is in the gift of the crown.

Mr. Joſeph Rogers, in 1722, bequeathed a ſum of money towards founding a charity ſchool at this place.

The manor of *Shipton*, a hamlet of this pariſh, has paſſed with Winſlow. Certain fields within the hamlet of Shipton, were incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1743; and the whole pariſh by an act paſſed in 1766, when allotments of land were aſſigned to the impropriator and vicar, and a ſmall allotment for the poor.

WOLVERTON, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about a mile north-eaſt of Stony-Stratford: it was the ſeat of the barony of Maigno Brito, a powerful Norman, whoſe deſcendants took the name of Wolverton: the family became extinct in the male line, in the reign of Edward III. John Longueville, who died in 1439, was poſſeſſed of this manor by marriage with Joan, daughter and heir of John Hunt, by his wife Margaret, daughter and ſole heir of Sir John de Wolverton. The manor of Wolverton continued in the family of Longueville nearly 300 years. Sir John Longueville, who was owner of Wolverton in Leland's time, lived to the age of 103: his deſcendant, Sir Edward Longueville, was created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1638, being deſcribed of this place: the title is now extinct. Sir Edward Longueville, the laſt baronet but one, broke his neck by a fall from his horſe at Biceſter races in 1718, and it is remarkable, that his father Sir Thomas, met with his death by a ſimilar accident in 1685. About ſix years before his death, Sir Edward Longueville abovementioned, ſold Wolverton to the celebrated phyſician, Dr. Radcliffe, who bequeathed it with other large eſtates in truſt for the univerſity of Oxford.

The keep of Maigno Brito's caſtle remains near the vicarage. The ſeat of the Longuevilles, which was re-built in 1586, has been pulled down: Browne Willis deſcribes it as a magnificent manſion.

In the pariſh church is the monument of Sir Thomas Longueville above-mentioned, who died in 1685: numerous entries of births and burials of this family occur in the pariſh regiſter.

The great tithes which were appropriated to the Priory of Bradwell, were granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir John Spencer, whoſe grandſon, Spencer Compton, Earl of Northampton, ſold them about the year 1650 to the Longuevilles: having been included in Dr. Radcliffe's purchaſe, and in his bequeſt to the univerſity, they are now veſted in the truſtees under his will, who are patrons of the vicarage.

The priory of Bradwell adjoining to this pariſh, the ſite of which is now deemed extraparochial, was founded in the reign of King Stephen, for black monks, by Manfelin, Baron of Wolverton: it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was originally a cell to Luffield. In 1526 it was given with other ſmall monaſteries to Cardinal Wolſey; after his attainder, the king granted it with the manor, in the year 1531, to the prior and convent of Sheen[e]: the ſite was granted after the reformation, to Arthur Longueville eſq. From the Longuevilles it paſſed by purchaſe to the Lawrences, in 1647; and from them, in 1664, to Sir Joſeph Alſton bart. then of Chelſea, who made Bradwell Abbey his reſidence: after his death it was ſucceſſively in the families of Fuller and Owen. About the year 1730 the Bradwell Abbey eſtate was purchaſed by Sir Charles Gunter Nicholl, K. B. whoſe only daughter and heir married the late Earl of Dartmouth: it is now veſted in their ſon, the preſent earl. The ſite of the abbey, of which there are no remains, is occupied as a farm-houſe.

WOOBURN, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies about four miles and a half eaſt of Great-Marlow. There were anciently two manors in this pariſh. The manor of Biſhop's-Wooburn had been from time immemorial in the ſee of Lincoln, till the year 1547, when Biſhop Holbeach gave it to the crown in exchange: it was granted, in 1549, to John Ruſſel, Earl of Bedford. Francis, the ſecond earl, ſold it about the year 1580, to Sir John Goodwin, whoſe anceſtors had reſided at Wooburn above 100 years, as tenants to the Biſhops of Lincoln. Sir Francis Goodwin, (ſon of Sir John,) was ſeveral times knight of the ſhire. The diſpute concerning the legality of his election in 1604, proved the cauſe of

[e] Manning's Surrey, vol. i. p. 418.

eſtabliſhing

eſtabliſhing the great conſtitutional doctrine, that the houſe of commons have the ſole right of judging and deciding on the validity of their own elections and returns. Sir Francis was a particular friend of the celebrated John Hampden, and zealouſly concurred with his meaſures at the commencement of the diſputes between King Charles and his parliament. His ſon, Arthur Goodwin, left an only daughter, Jane, married to Philip Lord Wharton, who became poſſeſſed in her right of the manors of Over-Winchendon and Wooburn, at both which places he occaſionally reſided. Soon after the revolution he had the honour of a viſit at Wooburn, from King William; his ſon, who was ſome years afterwards created Marquis of Wharton, having been the perſon who drew up the addreſs which invited that monarch to take poſſeſſion of the Britiſh throne. The Marquis of Wharton was ſucceeded, in 1715, by his ſon Philip, who was created Duke of Wharton, in 1718: after the death of this nobleman, whoſe extraordinary abilities and more extraordinary eccentricities have been ſo well deſcribed by Pope, the manor of Wooburn having been before mortgaged to the celebrated Col. Chartres, who reſided ſome time at the manor-houſe, was ſold in 1732 to John Morſe eſq. whoſe niece and heir brought it in marriage to the Berties. In 1784 it was purchaſed of Albemarle Bertie eſq. by Mrs. Rebecca Dupré, mother of James Dupré eſq. of Wilton Park, who is the preſent proprietor.

The old manor-houſe was a palace of the Biſhops of Lincoln. Biſhop Smith, the founder of Brazen Noſe-College, died at Wooburn in 1513, as did his ſucceſſor, Biſhop Atwater, in 1520. Biſhop Longland, confeſſor to King Henry VIII. who was a native of Henley, frequently reſided at Wooburn, where he died in 1547, a few months before it was alienated from the ſee by his ſucceſſor. The palace was pulled down in 1750: Mr. Langley, in his hiſtory of the hundred of Deſborough, informs us that the old gallery, which was 120 feet in length, was in the time of the Whartons, hung with the valuable portraits of that family, which were afterwards in Sir Robert Walpole's collection at Houghton. He ſpeaks of a ſmall room adjoining the chapel, called Little-eaſe, for the confinement of Heretics, in which the unfortunate Thomas Chaſe, of Amerſham, was barbarouſly murdered in 1506, being then a priſoner there on a charge of hereſy. Biſhop Smith, whoſe character has been ſeverely handled on account of this and other cruelties exerciſed in his dioceſe, has been ably defended by the learned Dr. Churton, of Brazen-Noſe College. Indeed Fuller, in his Church Hiſtory, ſeems inclined to believe that theſe cruelties were not perpetrated by the directions or with the knowledge of that prelate, being very inconſiſtent with his general character.

The famous Marquis of Wharton, and the more famous Duke, as Granger calls them, are ſaid to have expended incredible ſums of money on the houſe and gardens at Wooburn. The gardens, which were much admired, are ſaid to have been a continuation of terraces, of which ſcarcely a veſtige remains. When the houſe was pulled down, Mr. Bertie fitted up one of the wings, which has ſince been enlarged and improved: it is now occupied by the Counteſs of Orkney.

The manor of Wooburn-Deincourt belonged to the ancient family of Deincourt, from the time of the Norman Survey till the year 1422, when it paſſed by a female heir to the Lovells. Upon the attainder of Francis Lord Lovell it became veſted in the crown, and in 1513 was granted, for a term of years, to Sir William Compton, who occaſionally reſided at Wooburn. In 1597 it was granted in fee to Robert Spencer and Robert Atkins; not long afterwards it came into the Goodwin family, by the marriage of Sir John Goodwin, with Anne daughter of Sir William Spencer: ſince which time the two manors have been united. The ancient ſeat of the Deincourts and Lovells was near the church.

The manor of Lude, or Lyde, in Wooburn (called in the Norman Survey Lede) has paſſed with Biſhop's-Wooburn, and is now the property of Mr. Dupré, who, in the incloſure act, is called alſo lord of the manor of "the Glory" in this pariſh.

The pariſh church is a ſpacious Gothic ſtructure. The tower was built about the year 1480, as appears by the epitaph of John Goodwin, and Pernell his wife, who are called its founders. In the chancel are monuments of the families of Bertie and Wharton, among which is that of Philip Lord Wharton, who died in 1695.

The rectory, which was appropriated to the ſee of Lincoln about the year 1330, is now the property of Mr. Dupré, who is patron of the vicarage. Philip Lord Wharton gave a rent charge of 22*l.* 10*s.* *per annum* to the vicar, for preaching an evening lecture on Sundays. The pariſh of Wooburn has been encloſed by an act of parliament paſſed in 1802, when allotments of land, in lieu of tithes, were aſſigned to the impropriator and to the vicar, and an allotment to the poor for fuel.

There is an annual fair at Wooburn, for which Lord Wharton obtained a charter in 1686, on All-Souls day, O. S., now November 14th. A fair on the tranſlation of St. Edward the king, now diſcontinued, was granted by King Henry VI. to Alice Lovell, lady of the manor of Wooburn-Deincourt [f].

[f] Cart. 27—39 Henry VI.

WOOLSTON-MAGNA, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies three miles ſouth of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Fenny-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the families of Peyvre and Green, afterwards in the Staffords, from whom it paſſed by marriage to the Mordaunts, about the year 1642. It is now the property of William Selby eſq. of Winſlow, whoſe anceſtor, Mr. Lowndes, became poſſeſſed of it about the beginning of the laſt century.

James Nield eſq. is patron of the rectory. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1796, when a corn-rent was ſettled on the rector in lieu of tithes.

WOOLSTON-PARVA, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies near Woolſton-Magna, a little more than three miles ſouth of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Fenny-Stratford. The manor was ſucceſſively in the families of Paganell, Somery, Coudray, Tyringham, and Broughton. In 1575 it was purchaſed by the Duncombes, in whoſe family it continued nearly two centuries: it now belongs to Mr. Smith. Another manor, which was ſucceſſively in the Giffards, Clares, and Staffords, being part of the honor of Glouceſter, was ſome years ago in the family of Neale: it has ſince been the property of Sir John Riddell, and now belongs to Mr. Hanſcomb of Newport.

The advowſon of the rectory belonged formerly to the priory of Cumbwell, in Kent: it is now in the crown. This pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1791: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

WORMENHALL, in the hundred of Aſhendon and deanery of Waddeſdon, lies on the borders of Oxfordſhire, about five miles north-weſt of Thame. It had formerly a market on Thurſdays, granted in 1304, together with a fair on the feſtival of St. Peter and St. Paul, to John de Rivers, who it is probable was at that time lord of the manor: at a later period it was in the Ingeltons, from whom it paſſed by a female heir to the Tyrrells. In 1720 the manor of Wormenhall was bought by Edward Rudge eſq. of the Tipping family, who had ſucceeded the Tyrrells in the year 1560: it is now the property of Edward Horne eſq. of the Leaſowes, having been purchaſed of the Rudges by his father, Samuel Horne eſq. about the year 1772.

Sir Clement Cottrell Dormer has for ſeveral years given a deputation for the free warren of Wormenhall.

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In the parish church are some memorials of the family of King; John King, Bishop of London, and Henry King, Bishop of Chichester, a learned writer and a poet, were both of this family, and natives of Wormenhall. John King esq. son of the bishop of Chichester, founded an alms-house at this place in 1675, for four poor women and six poor single men, who receive eight shillings and four-pence each monthly, from the donation of the founder.

*Thumley*, a hamlet of this parish, is in Oxfordshire.

WOTTON-UNDERWOOD, in the hundred of Ashendon and deanery of Waddesdon, lies about nine miles nearly west of Aylesbury, and about the same distance from Bicester, in Oxfordshire. It was called Wotton-Underwood from its situation with respect to Bernwood forest, which was disforested by King James I. The manor, among many others, was given by William the Conqueror, to Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham: Isabel, daughter and co-heir of Walter the second earl, is said to have brought it in marriage about the year 1097, to Richard de Grenville, from whom there has been an uninterrupted line of male succession, through twenty generations, to the present proprietor, the Marquis of Buckingham.

Wotton-house has been from time immemorial the seat of the Grenvilles. The present mansion was built in 1705, after the model of Buckingham-house; the staircase and saloon were painted by Sir James Thornhill, who was paid 1000l. a year during three years, for his professional labours at Wotton. This mansion was the principal and favourite residence of the Right Hon. George Grenville, first lord of the Treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer, in the early part of the reign of his present majesty: it is now the occasional residence of Lord Temple, the Marquis of Buckingham's eldest son.

Burwells manor, in Wotton, which had in ancient times belonged to the Grenville family, was given by Sir Robert Dormer to Richard Grenville esq. in exchange for the manor of Ascot in Wing[i].

The parish church of Wotton has been lately repaired, and a new stone spire built by the Marquis of Buckingham. In the Grenville chapel or south aisle, which was originally built, in 1343, by William Grenville and Mary his wife, a large *columbarium* has been lately erected by the Marquis of Buckingham, for the interment of his family. The ancient monuments of the Grenvilles have been replaced and restored, some memorials of later date added, and the arms of the family

[i] Collins's Peerage.

and its alliances emblazoned under the ſuperintendance of Francis Townſend eſq. Windſor Herald. The windows alſo have been ornamented with the arms and quarterings of the families of Grenville, Temple, and Chandos, executed in ſtained glaſs by Eginton. The rectory of Wotton, which had been appropriated to the priory of St. Bartholomew, was annexed to the ſee of Canterbury, in the reign of Henry VIII. The pariſh of Wotton has been incloſed by an act of Parliament, paſſed in 1742, when an allotment of land in the neighbouring pariſh of Brill, was, in conſequence of an exchange which took place under the act, given to the ſee of Canterbury in lieu of the great tithes. In conſequence of a liberal donation for the augmentation of the curacy, the archbiſhop of Canterbury, under the powers of Queen Anne's bounty act, has lately conveyed the patronage of the donative to the Marquis of Buckingham.

Woughton, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about four miles and a half ſouth of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Fenny-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the family of Verley, from whom it paſſed by heirs female, to the Muxons, Botetorts, Greys, and Longuevilles. A third part of the manor continued for ſome time in the laſt-mentioned family, and having been ſold with Wolverton by Sir Edward Longueville, is now veſted in Dr. Radcliffe's truſtees. The other two parts paſſed to the families of Vavaſor, Nicholls, and Troutbeck; they are now the property of the Rev. Mr. Dreyer, who is patron and incumbent of the rectory. The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in 1768, when an allotment of land was aſſigned to the rector in lieu of tithes: it was provided by the act that the proprietors of the incloſed lands ſhould deliver yearly to the poor a certain number of faggots (to be determined by the commiſſioners) in lieu of their right to cut furze on the waſte lands. In the church are ſome memorials of the family of James.

High, or Chipping-Wycombe, a large market town, 29 miles from London, on the road to Oxford, lies within the hundred of Deſborough, and in the deanery to which it gives name. The market, which is on Fridays, has been held from time immemorial: it is a great mart for corn and other articles. There is only one annual fair, the Monday before Michaelmas. The town, which is much the handſomeſt in the county, is ſituated on the banks of a ſmall river, which riſes at Weſt-Wycombe, and in its courſe through this pariſh, turns ſeveral corn and paper mills. High-Wycombe has ſent members to parliament ſince the year 1300; the right of election is veſted in the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, and burgeſſes, the number

number of which at preſent is about 180. Edmund Waller, the poet, was one of the repreſentatives of this borough in 1625: the brave Sir Edmund Verney, King Charles's ſtandard bearer, who fell at the battle of Edghill, was elected in the parliaments of 1639 and 1640: Thomas Scott, the regicide, was one of the repreſentatives during the protectorate of Cromwell. The town appears to have been firſt incorporated in 1461, but the mayor and aldermen are mentioned in a record of the reign of Edward III.: the earlieſt charter now exiſting among the records of the corporation, bears date 1586. The corporation conſiſts of a mayor, twelve aldermen, a recorder, and other officers; the office of High Steward was annulled by the charter of King Charles II. but has ſince that time by virtue of former charters been held by the Earl of Bridgwater, Lord Chancellor Jefferies, and the Marquis of Wharton. The town-hall (ſituated in the High-ſtreet) is a brick ſtructure on ſtone pillars, built in 1757 at the expence of John Earl of Shelburne; in this hall are held the ſeſſions for the town and other public meetings. The aſſizes for the county were held at High-Wycombe eleven times between the years 1683 and 1712. By the returns made to parliament under the population act in 1801, it appears that the town of High-Wycombe then contained 458 houſes and 2349 inhabitants; of theſe 1088 were males and 1261 females: 58 perſons only are deſcribed as chiefly employed in agriculture, and 386 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft. The whole number of houſes in the town and pariſh appear to have been 836: the whole number of inhabitants 4248: the proportion of males 1943; of females 2305; the number of perſons employed chiefly in agriculture 282, of thoſe employed in trade, manufacture, and handicraft 724.

The only hiſtorical fact which has occurred relating to this town is a ſucceſsful attack made by Prince Rupert on the parliamentary quarters at Wycombe in 1643, ſoon after the battle of Reading [k].

The manor of High-Wycombe was the property of Robert D'Oyley one of the followers of William the Conqueror, who acquired it by marriage with the daughter of Wigod de Wallingford. Robert Doyley's daughter and heir married Milo Criſpin and afterwards Brien Fitzcount. She and her ſecond huſband having both aſſumed the habit of religion, the King (Henry II.) took poſſeſſion of their eſtates, and gave this manor to his natural ſon Geoffrey Archbiſhop of York. In 1203, the greater part of the manor which afterwards acquired the name of Baſſetſbury, was granted to Alan Baſſet, Lord Baſſet of Wycombe, from whoſe family it paſſed by a female heir to the Deſpencers, and in 1326 reverted to the crown by attainder.

[k] Clarendon's Hiſtory of the Rebellion, 8vo. edit. vol. II. p. 250.

In 1332 it was granted to William de Bohun[1], and on a partition of the inheritance of that noble family in 1421, became again veſted in the crown. King Edward IV. gave it in 1479 to the church of Windſor. The leaſe of this manor became veſted in the Daſhwoods about the beginning of the laſt century: the preſent leſſee is Sir John Daſhwood King bart.

Robert Vipont, to whom a part of the manor of Wycombe was granted by King John, gave it to the Knights-Templars. This eſtate, now the manor of Temple-Wycombe, upon the abolition of that order, was given with moſt of their poſſeſſions to the Knights-Hoſpitallers. After the reformation it was granted (in 1552) to John Cock. This manor, the manor of Loakes (which, in 1483, had been the property of Robert Bardſey,) and the manor of Windſors or Chapel fee, which had been in the Windſors and afterwards in the family of Welles, were purchaſed by the Archdales in the early part of the 17th century, and having continued in that family till the year 1700 were ſold by Thomas Archdale eſq. to Henry Petty, Lord Shelburne (afterwards Earl of Shelburne,) who bequeathed all his eſtates to his nephew John Fitzmaurice eſq. created Earl of Shelburne in 1753, and Baron of Chipping-Wycombe in 1760. His ſon, who was in 1784 created Earl Wycombe of Chipping-Wycombe and Marquis of Lanſdown, ſold theſe manors by auction in lots, which were ſoon afterwards (about the year 1795) all purchaſed by the preſent proprietor Lord Carrington.

The manor houſe of Loakes, which is ſituated near the town, was formerly the ſeat of the Archdales: it was conſiderably enlarged and improved by Lord Shelburne: the Marquis of Lanſdown beſtowed much coſt in laying out the gardens and pleaſure grounds. The houſe has been almoſt wholly rebuilt by the preſent noble owner in the Gothic ſtyle from the deſigns of Mr. Wyatt: it is now called Wycombe-Abbey. The ſmall river which paſſes through this pariſh runs through the pleaſure grounds to which it is a great ornament.

The pariſh church is ſaid by Mr. Langley in his hiſtory of the hundred of Deſborough to have been built in 1273: in the appendix he quotes the authority of Wharton's Anglia Sacra for its having been built and dedicated in the reign of Henry II. The preſent fabric is certainly of a much later date than either of thoſe periods. Mr. Langley ſays that the tower was built in 1522; and ornamented with pinnacles at the expence of John Earl of Shelburne about the year 1755. Between the aiſle of the church and the chancel is an ancient oak ſcreen, which by an inſcription on the north ſide appears to have been put up in 1460 at the expence of the family of Redhode, or Redhead. William Redhead the ſon was mayor of Wycombe in 1476.

[1] Pat. 6 Edw. III.

The altar piece painted by Mortimer repreſents St. Paul converting the Druids: it was given to the church by Dr. Bates of Little Miſſenden. In the chancel is the monument of Henry Petty, Earl of Shelburne, who died in 1751, by Scheemakers, erected at the expence of 2000l. bequeathed by him for that purpoſe. The effigies of the deceaſed is repreſented lying on a ſarcophagus of black marble ornamented with ſeveral emblematical figures and a medallion of the celebrated Sir William Petty, the earl's father. In the ſouth aiſle is a very handſome monument for Sophia Counteſs of Shelburne (firſt wife of the late Marquis) who died in 1771, with a female figure reclining on an urn, by Carlini. There are memorials in the church for the families of Archdale, Lluelyn, Shrimpton, and Bradſhaw. William Bradſhaw, who died in 1614, was 103 years of age. In the church-yard is the tomb of Robert Williams the late ſexton, who died in 1793 at the age of 102.

The rectory of High-Wycombe, which was formerly appropriated to the priory of Godſtow, is now the property of Samuel Welles eſq. in whoſe family it has been for ſeveral years. Lord Carrington is patron of the vicarage, the advowſon of which had belonged to the Archdales and to the Shelburne family. Dr. Gumble who wrote the life of General Monk, and is ſuppoſed to have aſſiſted him in concerting the meaſures which led to the reſtoration of King Charles II. was vicar of High-Wycombe.

The principal hamlets in this pariſh are the *Marſh*, *Flackwell-heath*, and *Loud-water*. At the latter is a chapel of eaſe, founded by Mr. Davis in 1791, and endowed with lands of the value of 40l. *per annum*.

High-Wycombe is at preſent the reſidence of the ſenior department of the Royal Military College, eſtabliſhed in the year 1799, under the ſuperintendance of Major-General Le Marchant, the Lieutenant-Governor, to whom the nation is indebted for the firſt ſuggeſtion of this very uſeful and laudable inſtitution. The eſtabliſhment is divided into two departments, one of which, called the firſt, or ſenior department, has hitherto been placed at High-Wycombe; the other, being the ſecond, or junior department, at Great-Marlow; but it is intended to remove both, when the building about to be erected for their reception at Sandhurſt, in Berkſhire, ſhall be completed. This inſtitution embraces a complete ſyſtem of military education; the junior department is intended for the education of young perſons, deſtined for the military profeſſion, from the age of thirteen: the ſons of thoſe meritorious officers, either in the land or ſea ſervice, who have fallen or been diſabled in the ſervice of their country, and have left their families in need of pecuniary ſupport; and the ſons of all ſubaltern officers ſerving in the army,

are

are boarded, educated and ſupplied with clothing free of expence: the ſons of captains and other officers are paid for according to their fathers' rank; the ſons of Noblemen and gentlemen, young perſons intended for the engineer or artillery ſervice, and cadets in the ſervice of the Eaſt India Company pay ninety guineas *per annum* for their education, boarding, and clothing.

The firſt, or ſenior department of the college, which is placed at High-Wycombe, is intended excluſively for the inſtruction of ſuch officers as are deſirous of qualifying themſelves to ſerve in the general ſtaff, and it is neceſſary, that previouſly to their admiſſion they ſhall have ſerved four years with their regiment, and be thoroughly converſant with the interior care of a company, and their duty in the field [m].

There was formerly a hoſpital for lepers in this town dedicated to St. Margaret and St. Giles, which was founded before the year 1229. Another hoſpital dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt appears to have been founded before 1235: a record of the year 1344 ſpeaks of it as in the patronage of the mayor and burgeſſes: it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the corporation, and the lands are now applied to the maintenance of a hoſpital for poor people and a grammar ſchool. Mr. Bowden, who died in 1790, gave the ſum of 1000l. to be laid out in the funds for the purpoſe of paying 30l. *per annum*, in addition to the ſalary of the maſter, who receives the ſame ſum from the hoſpital eſtate and has a houſe and garden with an orchard of two acres. The remainder of the produce of Mr. Bowden's donation is to be given to the poor of the hoſpital, in which there are now eight poor widows who receive 2s. a week each from the hoſpital chamberlain.

The learned William Alley, one of the tranſlators of the Bible, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who was promoted to the biſhopric of Exeter in 1560 and died in 1570, was a native of this town. Charles Butler, author of a treatiſe on Rhetorick, and the Female Monarchy, or a treatiſe on bees, was alſo a native of High-Wycombe.

West-Wycombe, in the hundred of Deſborough and deanery of Wycombe, lies about two miles from High-Wycombe on the road to Oxford: it was anciently called Haveringdon, or Haningdon. The manor was from ancient times in the ſee of Wincheſter, and its profits were allotted for the ſupport of the monks of that convent. Biſhop Poynet having ſurrendered this manor to the crown in exchange, it was given by King Edward VI. to the Protector Somerſet: Queen Mary reſtored it to the ſee of Wincheſter; but on the deprivation of Biſhop White, it was reſumed by the crown, and given in 1602 to Sir Robert Dormer, whoſe

[m] From the information of Major-general Le Marchant.

family

family had long been tenants to the biſhops of Wincheſter, and had reſided at Weſt-Wycombe, before they became poſſeſſed of the manors of Wing and Ethorp. Charles Dormer, the laſt Earl of Carnarvon, ſold this manor in 1670, together with the park, called Widenden Park, in Weſt-Wycombe, to Thomas Lewes, Alderman of London, who, in 1698, conveyed it to his brothers-in-law, Sir Samuel Daſhwood, and Francis Daſhwood eſq.: it ſoon afterwards became veſted ſolely in the latter, who was created a baronet in 1707. His ſon Sir Francis, in 1763, became, in right of his mother, Baron Le Deſpencer: on his deceaſe in 1781, the baronetage and manor of Weſt-Wycombe, deſcended to his half-brother, Sir John Daſhwood King, whoſe ſon and nameſake is the preſent proprietor. Copyhold lands in this manor deſcend to the eldeſt male, or in default of males, to the eldeſt female heir, being never divided among coheireſſes. The wife of a copyholder has a right to enjoy her huſband's lands ſo long as ſhe preſerves a pure and chaſte widowhood.

Weſt Wycombe houſe, the ſeat of Sir John Daſhwood King, which was built by Sir Francis Daſhwood, was much enlarged, and finiſhed with a profuſion of ornaments by his ſon, Lord Le Deſpencer. It contains a large collection of pictures, moſt of which are copies from the old maſters: there are ſeveral copies alſo of antique ſtatues. The gardens, which were deſigned by Lord Le Deſpencer, have the advantage of a beautiful ſituation, and their diſpoſition did credit to the taſte of their noble owner; but they are too much crowded with temples, ſtatues, and vaſes: many of theſe have been of late removed, and the grounds have been improved by Repton. The ſmall river which riſes in this pariſh, winds through the park and gardens, and ſupplies a lake which was deſigned by Lord Le Deſpencer.

The manor of Toweridge, in this pariſh, was from time immemorial, till within a few years, the property and ſeat of the Darrells. Thomas Darrell eſq. the laſt heir male of the family, was ſheriff of the county of Buckingham in 1771, but falling into misfortunes, he died in great poverty. The manor was purchaſed not long after his death (in 1794) by Sir John Daſhwood King.

The pariſh church ſtands on the ſummit of a ſteep hill, at a ſmall diſtance from the village, within the ſite of an ancient circular entrenchment. It was rebuilt in 1763, (excepting the tower and chancel, which are part of a more ancient ſtructure,) by Lord Le Deſpencer, who fitted it up in the Grecian ſtyle: the ceiling is painted with moſaic ornaments. There are fixed forms in lieu of pews; two arm chairs of mahogany, with ſmall deſks in front, ſerve for the pulpit and reading deſk. In the chancel are monuments of Sir Francis Daſhwood, and one of the Darrell family. Near the eaſt end of the church is an hexagonal building, without a roof,

erected by Lord Le Deſpencer. One ſide of this building is inſcribed to the memory of John Earl of Weſtmorland; another to George Doddington, Baron of Melcombe-Regis, whoſe legacy to Lord Le Deſpencer for the purpoſe of erecting a monument to his memory, was the cauſe of his lordſhip's building this ſingular mauſoleum. Withinſide are ſeveral receſſes for monuments, and ſmall niches for the reception of urns and buſts. The only monuments as yet put up within this mauſoleum, are thoſe of Lady Mary Fane, and Mary King, ſecond and third wives of Sir Francis Daſhwood bart. Sarah Baroneſs Le Deſpencer, who died in 1769, and her huſband, Lord Le Deſpencer the founder, who died in 1781. In one of the receſſes is the buſt of Thomas Thompſon M. D. to whom Whitehead addreſſed the poetical epiſtle, printed in his works, and in another a ſmall urn, containing the heart of Paul Whitehead, the poet, who bequeathed it as a legacy to his noble friend, Lord Le Deſpencer. It was depoſited in the mauſoleum with much ſolemnity, on the 16th of Auguſt 1775, ſeveral months after Mr. Whitehead's death; the urn is thus inſcribed:

"Paul Whitehead eſq. of Twickenham, Obiit Decemb. 30, 1774.

"Unhallowed hands this urn forbear;
No gems nor orient ſpoil
Lie here conceal'd, but what's more rare,
A heart that knew no guile."

The rectory of Weſt-Wycombe was appropriated to the abbot and convent of Biſham, under whom it was held on leaſe for many years by the family of Eaſt, who were afterwards tenants under the crown. There are ſome ancient memorials for this family on braſs plates in the church: Hugh Eaſt died at the age of 103, as appears by the pariſh regiſter. King James, in 1607 granted the rectory of Weſt-Wycombe in fee to the Anderſons: it was afterwards in the Dormers, from whom it paſſed with the manor to Alderman Lewes, and the Daſhwoods. The vicarage was in the gift of the crown till 1723, when the Daſhwoods procured a grant of the advowſon in exchange: Sir John Daſhwood King is the preſent patron. The vicarage has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty: the vicarage houſe was rebuilt with flint, in the Italian ſtyle, by Lord Le Deſpencer.

WYLLIEN, in the hundred and deanery of Newport, lies about a mile and a half ſouth of Newport-Pagnell, on the road to Fenny-Stratford. The manor was anciently in the Paganells: in the reign of Henry VII. it belonged to the Hanchets, afterwards to the families of White and Nicholls. In 1657 this manor was purchaſed by Colonel Hammond, who had the cuſtody of King Charles I. in the Iſle of

of Wight: his daughter, in 1673 ſold it to Dr. Buſby, the celebrated maſter of Weſtminſter ſchool, who bequeathed it in truſt for charitable uſes.

The pariſh church, a ſmall brick edifice, was built in 1680, at the expence of Dr. Buſby, who gave a library for the vicar, and endowed the vicarage with the great tithes, which had been formerly appropriated to the priory of Tickford. He appointed 22 lectures on the catechiſm to be preached annually in this church, and veſted the advowſon of the vicarage in truſtees, directing that they ſhould nominate from time to time a ſtudent of Chriſt Church College, in Oxford, who had been educated at Weſtminſter ſchool.

WYRARDISBURY, in the hundred of Stoke and deanery of Burnham, is ſituated near the banks of the Thames, about three miles to the ſouth of Colnbrook.

The manor belonged to the priory of Ankerwyke, in this pariſh, which was founded in the reign of Henry II. for Benedictine nuns, by Gilbert de Montfichet, and his ſon Richard, in honour of St. Mary Magdalen. In 1538, this priory, with the eſtates belonging to it, being then valued at 132l. os. 2d. *per annum*, was given to Biſham Abbey, and after the diſſolution of that monaſtery in 1540, was granted to Lord Windſor. Having ſoon afterwards reverted to the crown by an exchange, the priory was given by King Edward VI. in 1550, to Sir Thomas Smith, the celebrated ſtateſman, who reſided at Ankerwyke. John Taylor, the deprived biſhop of Lincoln, died under his roof at this place in 1553. Ankerwyke priory was afterwards for many years the ſeat of the Salter family, of whom it was purchaſed by the Lees. Elizabeth, daughter and heir of John Lee eſq. of Ankerwyke, was the ſecond wife of Sir Philip Harcourt, anceſtor of the preſent proprietor, John Simon Harcourt eſq. of whom Ankerwyke-houſe is rented by Mr. Cricket of the Commons: it was ſometime ago in the occupation of Lord Shuldham. There are no remains of the conventual buildings which are deſcribed as wholly ruinous in the report of the commiſſioners in the reign of Henry VIII. Soon after the diſſolution, a manſion was built on the ſite, either by Lord Windſor or Sir Thomas Smith: the hall of this manſion ſtill remains. Near the houſe is a remarkably large yew-tree, which, at ſix feet from the ground, meaſures 30 feet five inches in girth [n].

The manor of Wyrardiſbury was demiſed in 1555, to Sir Walter Stonor, and in 1574, to Sir Thomas Smith: in 1628 it was granted in fee to John Sharow. It is now the property of Mr. Harcourt, by inheritance from the Lees, who purchaſed

[n] The girth at the bottom of the butt is 23 feet 3 inches, in the middle 28 feet 4 inches. From the information of the Rev. Mr. Brown, rector of Horton.

the ſite of Ankerwyke Priory, and it is probable the manor of Wyrardiſbury alſo, of the Salters.

In the pariſh church are ſome monuments of the Harcourt family, and of Thomas Wright eſq. and Thomas Gill eſq. aldermen of London, partners in a very extenſive buſineſs as ſtationers, who died within a fortnight of each other, in the year 1798.

The rectorial manor, impropriate tithes, and advowſon of the vicarage, were given by King Edward III. to the dean and chapter of Windſor.

The pariſh has been incloſed by an act of parliament, paſſed in the year 1799. No mention is made in the act of any allotment for tithes. There are allotments for cottage rights, to the lord of the manor for right of ſoil; and willow plantations for the copyholders, to be held in ſeveralty by copy of court-roll. A parcel of the waſte was allotted for the purpoſe of holding a fair on the Friday in Whitſun-week, purſuant to ancient cuſtom.

A manor in this pariſh, which had been ſeized by the crown during the minority of Ralph de Plaiz, was granted for life to John Fray, who was appointed chief baron of the exchequer in 1436[o]: it appears to have been afterwards given to Eton College [p].

[o] Rot. Parl. [p] Ibid.

# ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

## BEDFORDSHIRE.

P. 16 and 60. Godfrey Thornton eſq. died in November 1805.

P. 39. It appears that Col. Okey was not only an inhabitant of this county, but that he poſſeſſed ſo much influence in it as to have been appointed *Cuſtos Rotulorum*, in which office he was ſucceeded by the Earl of Bedford, on the 6th of March 1660. See Mercurius Politicus, publiſhed by order of parliament, March 1—8, 1660.

P. 40, 41. Acts of parliament for incloſing the pariſhes of Arleſey and Aſtwick, paſſed in 1804, after theſe pages were printed off. John Jackſon eſq. who appears to have made a recent purchaſe, is deſcribed in the acts as lord of the manor of both pariſhes, and impropriator of Arleſey; allotments of land were aſſigned in lieu of tithes.

P. 92. The Bedfordſhire branch of the Cockayne family became extinct by the death of Samuel Cockayne eſq. in 1746. A periodical paper[a] of that date affirms that the repreſentative of the family at that time was George, Count Cockayne, an officer in the Poliſh ſervice, grandſon of Scipio Cockayne of Shengay, in Cambridgeſhire: Lord Cullen is ſaid to be deſcended from a younger branch of the family. By the death of Mrs. Lucy Cockayne Cuſt, which happened in the month of February 1804, the manor of Cockayne-Hatley has devolved on her nephew Lord Brownlow, who makes it his occaſional reſidence.

P. 108. Archbiſhop Rotheram, by his will bearing date 1498, (printed in Hearne's Lib. Niger Scacc. vol. 2. p. 667, ſecond edition,) gave the manors of Someries, Luton *cum Hundredo* and Houghton, &c. to Sir Thomas Rotheram, his brother's eldeſt ſon in tail male.

P. 113. It appears by Archbiſhop Rotheram's will above-mentioned, that his mother and brother were interred in Luton Church.

P. 116. The manor, or reputed manor of Howe, in the pariſh of Mepperſhall, being now the property of Col. Oſborn, was advertiſed for ſale in the month of April 1805, but is as yet unſold.

P. 137, l. 3. for John read Laurence. The manor of Sharpenhoe, as being late the eſtate of Laurence Smyth, Clerk, deceaſed, has been lately advertiſed for ſale under a decree of the court of Chancery.

[a] The Daily Advertiſer.

P. 137, and 138. The advowſon of Stretly and the manor of Sundon were ſold in 1802 to Robert Hopkins eſq. of Tidmarſh in Berkſhire.

P. 155. Richard Archer died ſeiſed of the manor of Hoe only as tenant by the courteſy: the fee was in the family of Lucy, who held it of the Todenhams as of their part of the barony of Bedford. The Lucys had alſo a manor in Carleton, which had belonged to the Pabenhams, and a manor in Ravenſdon formerly belonging to the Trallys and held under the Mowbray family [b].

## BERKSHIRE.

P. 181. There is ſome inaccuracy in the account of the Loveden family in this page, which will be found corrected in p. 255.

P. 184. To the ſeats mentioned in this page add Benhams in Letcombe-Regis, the ſeat of Thomas Goodlake eſq.

P. 185. Mrs. Goodlake has left Ham-houſe.

——— Hungerford-park, the ſeat of John Willes eſq. is accidentally omitted in this page: an account of it will be found in p. 296.

P. 201, *note*. Dr. Beeke's paper is printed in vol. xv. of the Archæologia, p. 179.

P. 213. In the hall window at Ockholt-houſe are the arms of England, with antelopes as ſupporters, which circumſtance renders it probable that it was built in the reign of Henry VI. antelopes having been uſed as ſupporters only by that monarch.

P. 251, and 444. By the death of Mrs. Crewe, the manors of Brimpton and Wolhampton have devolved to her ſon-in-law Lord Falmouth.

P. 263. On the Patent Roll of the 13th of Edward II. is a grant to John the hermit of the chapel of St. Leonard of Loffeld, in Windſor Foreſt, to incloſe ſome land, parcel of the foreſt [c]. It is extremely probable that this chapel gave name to St. Leonard's hill in the pariſh of Clewer, and what adds ſtrength to the conjecture is that the ſeat of the Ducheſs of Somerſet was formerly called the Hermitage. That accompliſhed lady (when Counteſs of Hertford) dates ſeveral of her letters [d], which are in print, from the Hermitage on St. Leonard's-hill.

P. 267. Pigmy's-Green is no doubt a corruption of Pinkney's-Green. See p. 266.

P. 270. Mr. Richmond Webb's eſtate has been lately purchaſed by the Earl of Radnor.

[b] See Eſch. 11 Edward IV. [c] Pat. 13 Edw. II. 5.

[d] Written in the years 1737, 1738, and 1739.

P. 284. The manor of Eaſt-Hagbourn was purchaſed of the Knolles family by Lord Craven's anceſtor in 1630. The Rev. I. Scoolt died in Nov. 1805.

P. 285. Southill, the ſeat of Sir Stephen Luſhington (in the pariſh of Eaſt-Hampſted) was purchaſed of the Hon. Henry Bouverie in 1787: it has of late years paſſed through ſeveral hands, and was for ſome time the property and ſeat of the brave Earl Howe.

P. 291. The advowſon of Hatford has, by a late purchaſe, become the property of Thomas Lewis eſq.

P. 294. See alſo p. 185, and 314. By the death of the Rev. I. Loder, that family is become extinct in the male line: his eſtates devolve to the Rev. Robert Symonds, who married his only daughter.

P. 308. The manor of Lambourn was purchaſed by the Craven family in 1625. The manors of Blagrove, Eſtbury, Bockhampton, Granſones, Hadley, and Pluknet, all in Berkſhire, and apparently in the pariſh of Lambourn, were included in the purchaſe.

P. 313. Giraline de Curzon, Lord of the manor of Lockinge, in Berkſhire, is the firſt of the family of Curzon on record, as ſtated in the peerages: he was a great benefactor to the abbot and convent of Abingdon.

P. 314. In the act of parliament which paſſed in 1804 for incloſing the townſhip or hamlet of Charney, James Crowdy, Thomas Price Belcher, Daniel Giles, and William Pinder gent. (who purchaſed of Mr. Keck), are ſtated to be lords of the manor: the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

P. 315. The manor of Garford belonged to the family of Aldworth in 1545; it was ſold to William Box in 1664. Lord Craven's anceſtor purchaſed it of the Goddards in 1624.

P. 342, l. 8. for Prankard, read Welldale. Mr. Welldale and Mrs. Letitia Prankard ſucceeded in eſtabliſhing a *joint* claim to the Knollys eſtates: on a diviſion, the Berkſhire eſtates became the property of Mr. Welldale.

P. 336. The paſſage beginning, "The gate-way of the abbey," line 18, ſhould run thus. "The gate-houſe of the abbey is not of very antient date, but the gate-way, the arches of which are circular, is probably as ancient as the foundation of the monaſtery.

P. 407. By the death of Mr. Worthington, his eſtates have devolved to his ſons, Thomas Giles, and Charles. Mr. Giles was not an uncle, but more diſtant relation. See alſo p. 167.

P. 411. Bowſey-hill, or Endalls, a manor, or reputed manor, in the pariſh of Wargrave, being then the property of Mrs. Edwards, was ſold in 1803 to Mr. Edward Fromont.

P. 414. Fig. 1. in the plate annexed to this page, repreſents a ſeal appendant to a ſurrender from the warden and college of the free chapel of St. George at Windſor,

Windſor, to King Edward III. in the 30th year of his reign, of the manor of Old-Windſor, for the life of Oliver de Burdeux, by whom it had been demiſed to them for that term: it is preſerved in the Chapter-houſe at Weſtminſter.

P. 418. For "Don Alphonſo, ſon of the King of Spain," read Alphonſo the king's ſon.

P. 425. The monument of King Edward IV. is on the north ſide of the altar. See an account of it, p. 210.

P. 432. Sir William Compton, anceſtor of the Earl of Northampton, was ranger of the great park at Windſor, and reſided in the lodge there. The rangerſhip of Cranborn Chace is become vacant by the death of his Royal Highneſs the late Duke of Glouceſter; a new appointment has not yet been announced.

P. 435. Dr. Foſter, provoſt of Eton, who publiſhed a learned diſſertation on "Accent," was a native of Windſor, and lies buried in the church-yard, where there is a monument to his memory.

P. 437. Ferne-hill was ſold by auction in the month of November 1805; the purchaſer was Sir T. T. Metcalfe bart.

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

P. 451, l. 16. for "who, in the early part of the war, had a garriſon," read "In the early part of the war the King had a garriſon."

P. 472. For Sir John Aubrey inherits "his ſeat at Dourton in this county," read "eſtates in this county." See the account of Dourton, p. 552.

P. 493. Near the churches of Great and Little Kimble are ſome earth-works and a mount. On the hills in the pariſh of Great Kimble, towards Hampden, is a deep intrenchment of an irregular form: the hill above Kimble caſtle, mentioned in p. 493, was formerly called Belineſbury, now Beacon-hill.

P. 496, 497, 498. Henry Brudenell of Amerſham, who died about the year 1430, had a ſon, Edmund, who was anceſtor of the Brudenells of Shardeloes; his younger ſon Robert was anceſtor of the Brudenells of Stoke-Mandeville. William Brudenell, brother of Henry, married the heireſs of a branch of the Bulſtrode family, and inherited Hedgerley. (See p. 577.) Edmund Brudenell, lord of the manor of Raans, had an only daughter and heir who married Richard Waller eſq. of the county of Kent, ſon of Richard Waller who took the Duke of Orleans priſoner at the battle of Agincourt, and anceſtor of Edmund Waller the poet[f]. This match it is probable was the occaſion of the Wallers ſeating themſelves at Coleſhill.

P. 504. The population of Buckingham (2605) has inadvertently been inſerted inſtead of that of Ayleſbury (3082). The obſervation connected with it is juſt, nevertheleſs, although the difference in numbers is not ſo ſtriking.

P. 505. It was the fee-ſimple of the prebendal houſe and pleaſure-ground only,

[f] Collins's Peerage.

which

which was purchaſed with the manor by Mr. Browne; the greater part of the eſtate ſtill continues to be annexed to the Prebend.

P. 506. By the original record referred to by Dugdale, it appears that both the ancient hoſpitals ſpoken of in this page were of royal foundation. The record which is an inquiſition taken for the purpoſe of aſcertaining the ſtate of the hoſpitals, and by what means they came into the king's hands, ſtates that they had been both founded by the king's progenitors; the hoſpital of St. John for impotent infirm poor, St. Leonard's for lepers or other ſick perſons; that ſome lands in Weſton-Turville and Stoke-Mandeville had been appropriated to the hoſpital of St. John, and ſome lands in Hartwell to that of St. Leonard without the king's licence; that the buildings of both had long fallen to decay, and the hoſpital of St. Leonard had been converted to ſecular uſes [f].

P. 508. The Bennets of Bechampton were collateral anceſtors of the Earl of Tankerville.

P. 531. By a fine levied, 36 Hen. III. between Richard Earl of Cornwall, and Joan de Ferrars, the manor of Cippenham, with the advowſon of the chapel there, was limited to the ſaid Joan for life, with remainder to the Earl of Cornwall and his heirs [g].

Ibid. l. 25. Between "Windſor" and "Darrell" add Hodenge. On a diviſion of the barony of Windſor between Walter and William Fitz-Other, in the reign of Richard I. Walter had Burnham, Beaconsfield, and Eton: his daughter and co-heir married Ralph de Hodenge. See p. 507 and p. 560. Burnham and Huntercombe appear to have reverted to the Windſor family: Sir Miles Windſor died ſeiſed of thoſe manors, 10 Richard II.

P. 535, l. 1. Inſtead of "which paſſed," read "a purparty, or fourth part of which paſſed."

P. 542. Sir Euſtace Grenville and Thomas de Haye who married two co-heireſſes of Robert Darcie, baron of Coggs, alienated the manors of Eaſt-Claydon, Bottle-Claydon, and Shabbington, to Walter de Grey, archbiſhop of York, who conveyed them to his brother Robert, and Walter his ſon. See alſo p. 628 [h].

P. 528, l. 11. Richard Fowler, the anceſtor of this family, was an eminent ſoldier in the cruſades [i].

P. 556. By the death of the Rev. Richard Wells and his brother Joſeph Wells, gent. joint impropriators, the Rev. Dr. Joſeph Wells, ſon of the former, is become ſole impropriator, patron, and vicar, of the pariſh of Elleſborough.

P. 558. It is probable that Mr. Cole had miſtaken the Will of Archbiſhop Rotheram, (by which ornaments were bequeathed to the college at Rotheram, for the uſe of the *bairn*-biſhop,) for that of Biſhop Blythe.

[f] Bundell. Placit de Terr. &c. in Turr. London. co. Bucks. No. 25. [g] Ibid. No. 2.
[h] Collins. [i] Kimber, III. 11 and 12.

P. 594. Mr. Oldham's right of nominating to the donative of Lee has been queſtioned, in conſequence of which the benefice when lately vacant lapſed to the Biſhop, who nominated the preſent curate on the recommendation of Mr. Deering, lord of the manor.

P. 598. Mr. Hollier has ſold his ſhare of the manor of Tetchwick to Mr. Betts, a farmer; the other ſhares are the property of neighbouring farmers.

P. 606. The manor of Berryſted, in Mentmore, with a manor-houſe near the church, being the property of J. Tirel-Morin eſq. were ſold in 1804; the manor-houſe, with the greater part of the eſtate, was purchaſed by Mr. Harper.

P. 613. By the death of Mr. Hooton, Tickford-abbey has devolved to his ſon-in-law Mr. Ward.

P. 617, l. 22. Inſtead of "this manor," read "a purparty, or fourth part of this manor."

P. 621. The cloiſters at Aſheridge were afterward pulled down (by direction of the late Duke of Bridgwater) and the materials ſold; ſome of theſe were uſed for mending roads.

P. 627. Sir Thomas Windſor, who is deſcribed as of Prince's Riſborough, by his will, bearing date 1552, bequeathed a manor in that pariſh to Ann his daughter and heir, who married Sir Henry Grey anceſtor of the Earl of Stamford. The tower of the pariſh church of Prince's-Riſborough having fallen down in 1803, a new tower has been ſince built by the pariſh, and a ſpire erected on it by ſubſcription.

P. 628. The Rev. G. H. P. Jerioſe died Nov. 3, 1805. See alſo p. 468.

P. 634. The manor of Eakley-Lane was ſold, in 1804, to Sir Robert Gunning bart.

P. 656. The manor-farm of Collet was ſold in the month of June, 1805, to Mr. Jones of Weſt Smithfield.

*Ibid.* It is ſomewhat remarkable that Guy Carleton, who was afterwards biſhop of Chicheſter, being then vicar of Bucklebury, in Berkſhire, (to which vicarage he was inſtituted in 1635), is ſaid to have done good ſervice in the cavalry during the civil war[k] on the King's ſide.

P. 667. Mr. Tirel-Morin's manor has lately been ſold to Mr. Lucas of North-place, Gray's Inn-lane.

[k] See A. Wood.

FURTHER

# FURTHER ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

P. 59. By the death of Henry Beauchamp, Lord St. John, which happened December 18, 1805, the title and eſtates of that noble family have devolved to his only brother the Honourable St. Andrew St. John.

P. 179. By the death of Charles Fettiplace eſq. which happened Dec. 16, 1805, that ancient name became again extinct. The Fettiplace eſtates devolve to Richard Gorges eſq. whoſe mother was ſiſter to the late Mr. Fettiplace. See alſo p. 2 o. 288. and 361.

P. 184 and 410. Warfield-Grove is now the property of the Earl of Mountnorris, having been purchaſed by him of Sir J. Coxe Hippeſley.

P. 204. Charney ſhould have been here mentioned as a chapel.

P. 283. Henry Elſyng, here mentioned, who lived in the reign of Charles I. was Clerk of the Houſe of Commons. Henry Elſyng his father was Clerk of the Houſe of Lords.

P. 317. The firſt battle of Newbury was fought principally on a hill near the town, and on Enborne-heath. In Dr. Sanderſon's Hiſtory of the Life and Reign of King Charles I., is the following order from the Earl of Eſſex to Mr. Fulk, the miniſter; and to the Conſtables of Enborne—"Theſe are to will and require you forthwith upon ſight to bury all the dead bodies lying in and about Enborne, and Newbury-waſh, upon your peril of diſobeying—the one and twentieth of September 1643. ESSEX."

Dr. Sanderſon ſays, that the King and Queen ſtood all day upon the hill to ſee the fight. P. 647, 648.

P. 357. In Dr. Sanderſon's Hiſtory of the Life and Reign of King Charles I., (P. 273, 374,) are two very ſpirited replies of the Governor of Donnington Caſtle (who is there called *Bloys*) to Colonel Horton. The firſt ſummons was as follows:

"To the Governor of Donnington,

"Sir,—I demand the caſtle now in your poſſeſſion for the uſe of King and Parliament which if you deny—at your peril.—Sep. 29, 1644.

JER. HORTON."

To this Capt. Boys returned anſwer,

"Sir,—I have received your ſummons. I ſhall keep this place wherein I am entruſted by his Majeſty in deſpite of all your forces, contemning the peril you

mentioned and ſhould be aſhamed, were I in extremetie, to render this caſtle to ſo inconſiderable a partie.

Sep. 29, 1644. JO. BOYS."

To a ſecond ſummons, after Col. Horton had received reinforcements, he replied as follows;

" Sir,

" Neither your new addition of forces nor your high threatening ſhall deter me, nor the reſt of thoſe honeſt men with me from our loyalty to our Sovereign; but do reſolve to maintain this place to the uttermoſt of our powers; and for the matter of our quarters, you may expect the like.

Oct. 7, 1644. JOHN BOYS."

P. 428. Dr. Sanderſon, in his Life of King Charles I., (p. 888) ſays, that " the curious coſtly elaborate tomb, erected at the immenſe charge of Cardinal Wolſey," for his maſter King Henry VIII., was ſold by order of Parliament, under the deſcription of defaced braſs, for 600*l.* and the money given to Col. Venn who was then Governor.

P. 473. In the liſt of gentlemen's ſeats, Checkers, the ſeat of Robert Greenhill eſq. is accidentally omitted. See an account of it, p. 555.

P. 643. The figure of the ſeal of Luffield Priory, at p. 424, was drawn from an impreſſion of the original *matrix* in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Charles Preſcot of Stockport, in Cheſhire.

# INDEX

## OF

# NAMES AND TITLES.

*The Titles of the Nobility and the Names of Kings or Princes are printed in Italics.*


A

ABBERBURY, 252. 258. 355, 356. 358.
Abbot, 19, 20, 36. 54. 135. 192.
Abdy, 522.
A'Bear, 411.
Abell, 542, 543. 617.
Aben, 217.
*Abergavenny*, 404.
*Abingdon*, 167. 181, 182. 233. 271, 281, 287. 293, 294. 377, 378. 439. 444, 445.
Abraham, 627, 667.
Achard, 178, 179. 230, 231. 281. 313. 369, 370. 388.
Achie, 417.
Ackworth, 113.
Adams, 575, 593. 630. 646.
Addington, 88. 347. 381.
Addiſon, 586. 642.
Adeane, 627.
Adeliza, Q. 334. 416.
Admettus, 418, *note*.
Agace, 184. 437.
Aland, 583.
Alarder, 349.
Alban, 501.
*Albemarle*, 87, 88. 100. 107. 407.
Albini, 10. 69, 70. 84. 87. 90. 293, 580. 592. 616.
Aldrich, 532.
Aldryngton, 380.
Aldworth, 235. 339. 347. 352. 404. 411, 412. 414. 426. 685.
Alford, 300. 309. 562.
*Alfred*, King 1. 160. 162. 215. 217. 295. 307, 328. 407.
Allayne, 89.
Allen, 326. 535.
Alleſtree, 559.
Alley, 678.
*Alphonſo*, 418.
Alſton, 16. 35. 66. 91. 122, 123. 135. 519. 597. 669.
*Altham*, 104.
Aluric, 326.
Alward, 363.
Ambler, 244. 246.
Amyce, 225, *note*.
Anderſon, 15. 33. 57. 82, 83. 516. 680.
Andrew, 407.
Andrewes, 471. 592. 596.
Andrews, 182. 355. 358. 373.
*Angleſey*, 612.
*Anjou*, 73.
*Annandale*, 239.
*Anne*, Queen 333. 420. 425. 427. 433, 434.
*Anne*, Queen of James I. 330. 340. 459. 614.
*Anne* of Cleve, 243. 248.
Anneſley, 612.
Anſculf, 178. 466.
Anſell, 136. 607.
*Anſpach*, 373.
Antonie, 16. 131. 602. 605.
Antt, 132.
Apſley, 586.
Apreece, 545.
Archdale, 676, 677.
Archer, 98. 155, 181. 187. 325. 390. 412, 413. 579. 68.
Arches, 292. 655.
Arderne, 232. 362.
Ardres, 597.
Argentien, or Argentine, 92. 121.
*Argyle*, 248.
Armſtrong, 109.
Arnold, 132.
*Arthur*, Prince 405.
*Arundel*, 12. 96. 281. 360. 417. 439. 662. 666.
Aſcheſdune, 218.
*Aſcot*, 470, 664. 666.
*Aſhbrook*, 182. 299. 300. 415.
*Aſhburnham*, 14. 38. 48. 69. 127, 128.
Aſhburnham, 38. 127, 128. 568.
Aſhfield, 537. 629. 632. 663.
Aſhly, 79.
Aſhmole, 216. 246. 275. 597.
Aſhton, 75, 77. 520.
Aſkew, 646.
Aſpinall, 52. 102.

Aſſchton, 132.
Aſtell, 60.
Aſtle, 307, *note.* 407, *note.*
Aſtley, 164. 182. 332. 355.
*Aſtley*, 182. 332.
Aſton, 278. 331. 374.
Aſtrey, 12. 80. 82. 90, 91. 144. 149.
Athawes, 594.
*Athelwolf*, 160.
Atkins, 185. 371. 391. 613. 671.
Atkinſon, 366.
Atkyns, 266.
At-Oke, 329.
Atterbury, 606. 614.
Atwater, 670.
Aubrey, 413. 468. 472. 517. 518. 523. 541. 552. 615. 686.
Aucherius, 348.
Audeley, 500.
Audley, 522. 526. 609.
*Audley*, 232. 395. 521.
Aulus Plautius, 450.
Aungear, 403.
Aveneil, 495.
Ayete, 563. 628.
Ayleſbury, 505. 519. 606.
*Ayleſbury*, 14. 37. 38. 63. 96, 97. 115. 117. 126. 352. 354. 470.
Aylward, 427.
Aynſcombe 75. 77. 263.
Ayſcough, 620.
Ayſhcombe, 182. 260. 289. 369.

B

Baalun, 245.
Baber, 382.
Babham, 267.
Babington, 273. 303. 526. *note.*
Backhouſe, 384.
Backwell, 523. 613. 629. 653.
Bacon, 83. 245. 345.
*Bacſeg*, 160.
Badcock, 516.
Baddleſmere, 138. 568. 621.
Bagnall, 380.
Bagot, 141. 396. 498. 528. 540, 541.
*Bagot*, 141. 541.
Bailey, 519.
Baker, 72. 236. 263. 272. 303. 345. 511. 583. 618.
Baldwin, 105. 459. 501. 503, 504. 506. 524. 542. 550. 555. 579.
Baleby, 622.
Balinger, 667.
Baliol, 101.
Ball, 378.
Ballard, 560.
*Baltinglaſs*, 647.
Banbury, 222. 337.
*Banbury*, 181. 262. 374.
Bance, 313.
Baniſtre, 517.
Banks, 508.
Banning, 247.
Banniſter, 378.
Barber, 134. 501.
Barbour, 222. 225. 228, 229.
Bard, 534. 553.
Bardſey, 676.
Barentine, 417. 634.
Barentyne, 255.
Bareſcot, 47.
Barker, 72. 301, 302. 374. 381. 402. 548. 575. 653.
Barkſtead, 332.
Barleigh, 106.
Barlow, 242.
Barnaby, 408.
Barnard, 345. 557. 607.
Barnes, 440.
Barnett, 57.
Barns, 354.
Barnwell, 573.
Barrett, 184, 185. 235. 315.
Barrington, 182. 215. 273. 366, 367. 500.
*Barrington*, 167. 273. 365, *note*, 366. 367. 369. 400.
Barton, 259. 467. 498. 512. 521. 526. 530. 634. 645. 647, 648, 649.
Barry 632.
Baſhe, 258.
Baſill, 508.
Baſkerville, 382. 428.
Baſket, 47.
*Baſregh*, 160.
Baſſet, 311, 354. 495. 500. 520. 616. 630. 675.
*Baſſet*, 616. 675.
Baſtard, 184, 185. 202, *note.* 313. 408.
Batchelor, 259. 312, *note.*
Bate, 104. 609.
*Bateman*, 415.
Bateman, 415.
Bates, 677.
Bateſon, 590.
*Bath*, 93, 238. 407, 408.
Bathe de, 308.
Bathonia, 80. 398, *note.*
Bathurſt, 42.
*Bathurſt*, 14. 43. 95. 586.
Batſon, 437.
Battie, 267. 600.
*Bavaria*, 283.
Bayley, 42.
Bayly, 115.
Baynell, 628, 651.
Baynes, 428.
Beale, 657, 658.
Beauchamp, 2. 10, 11. 34. 37. 40, 41. 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 58. 61. 64, 65, 66, 67. 71, 72. 79, 80. 84. 88, 89. 92, 93. 102. 117. 126. 129. 136. 150. 154, 265. 283. 371, 372. 374. 423, 424. 444. 468. 490. 520. 533. 545. 552. 571, 572. 576. 595. 605. 616. 623. 629. 653. 667.
*Beauchamp*, 14. 58.
Beauclerk, 263. 437. 594.
Beaufort, 58, 290. 431. 610.
*Beaufort*, 47, *note.* 426.
*Beaulieu*, 470. 639.
Beaumont, 365. 439.
*Beaumont*, 415, 439.
Beavan, 385.
Bechampton, 508.
Becher, 12. 126.
Becket, 366. 522.
Beckford, 62, 79. 146. 149. 554.
Beckingham, 256, 365.
Becote, 366.
Bedford, 65, 506.
*Bedford*, 13, 14. 17. 38. 41. 46, 47, 48. 56. 63. 71, 72. 79. 82. 88, 89. 97. 99, 100, 101, 102, 103. 106, 107. 110. 115, 116, 117. 121. 126, 127, 128. 133. 135. 140, 141. 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154. 292. 298, *note.* 384. 397. 409. 470. 475. 491. 496, 497. 515. 520. 537, 538, 539. 575. 584, 585. 610. 631. 656. 665, 669.
Bedingfield, 47, *note.*
Bedwell, 229.
Beeke, 162. 167, *note.* 172. 187. 193. 201, *note.* 202, *note.* 216. 273. 392. 475, *note.*

Beke, 348. 362. 380. 673.
Bekeryng, 128.
Bekyngham, 245.
Belcher, 289. 685.
Belet, 341. 516.
Belknap, 95.
Bell, 140.
Bellas, 446.
Bellafyſe, 211. 336.
Belleiſle, 431. 433.
Bellew, 398.
Bendiſh, 131. 140.
Benham, 293.
Bennet, 437. 468. 471. 498. 508, 509. 533. 634. 643, 687.
Benſon, 226, 512, 514, *note.*
Bent, 497, 498.
Bentinck, 86. 470.
Benyon, 167. 185. 274, *note,* 275, 276. 375.
Bereford, 402, 439. 440. 538. 586.
Beresford, 467, *note.* 665.
*Bergavenny,* 78. 99.
Berington, 240.
Berkeley, 136, 239, 548. 618. 666.
*Berkeley,* 46, 47, *note.* 63. 92. 136. 232. 239. 371. 395. 602. 618. 666, 667.
*Berkſhire,* 181, 392.
Bermingham, 581. 597. 612.
Bernard, 250. 467, *note.* 474. 494. 587, 588, 589.
Berners, 140.
*Berners,* 62.
Bernington, 225.
Berrow, 120.
Bertie, 179. 181. 233. 281. 287. 294. 377. 439. 445, 446. 546, 547. 567. 589. 670. 671.
Berwick, 281. 287.
Beſils, 179. 187. 222. 228, 229, 234. 240. 251, 252, 253. 260. 263. 314. 360.
Beſt, 89.
Betham, 559.
Bettesworth, 94. 109. 113. 624.
Betts, 688.
Betun, 107. 407.
Bevan, 127.
Beve, 225.
Bever, 376.
Beverley, 79, 280.
Bidun, 591, 592, 593.
Bigg, 403. 551.
Bigland, 233, *note.*
Bigod, 286, 407.
Bilhemore, 32, 90.
Billing, 510.
Bingley, 186. 437.
Birch, 263.
Bird, 231, *note.*
Birt, 380.
Biſcoe, 244.
Biſſet, 621.
Blacket, 494. 550.
Blacknall, 412.
Blackſtone, 186. 399. 401, 402, 403.
Blagrave, 180. 185. 310. 331. 336. 339. 341, 342. 345. 347. 350. 369. 381. 389.
Blague, 397.
Blake, 272.
Blakenham, 273.
*Blandford,* 182, 301, 380.
Blandy, 185, 246, 257, 306, 307.
Blane, 437.
Blewbury, 210, 361.
Bloſield, 87, 88.
Blois 44, 588.
Blondel, 67.
Bloſſomville, 467. 519. 611.
Blount, 241. 553.
Blower, 406.
Blundell, 12. 46. 65. 139.
Blundeville, 394.
Blunt, 272.
Blythe, 558.
Boate, 579.
Bocland, 251.
Bocles, 90. 148.
Boddington, 519.
Bodley, 247.
Bohun, 101. 294. 368. 372. 496, 497. 545, 546. 619. 676.
Bokeſworth, 359.
Bold, 84.
Bolebec, or Bulbec, 152. 466. 523. 578. 595. 604. 658. 663.
Boleyne, 11. 108. 504.
*Bolingbroke,* 59, 60. 83. 102. 140. 156. 253. 254. 311. 385, 386.
*Boloigne,* or *Bolougne,* 122. 125. 155.
Bolton, 344.
Bond, 105.
Bonham, 107.
Bonnell, 185. 415.
Boot, 407.
Boreman, 520.
Borlaſe, 468. 471. 550. 598, 599. 601. 605.
Borſtard, 522.
Boſard, 103.
Boſom, 129.
Boſon, or Boſun, 661.
Boſſu, 305. 643.
Boſtock, 184. 229. 239.
*Boſton,* 470. 477. 532. 577, 578. 586. 590.
Boteler, 56. 61. 91. 94. 116, 117. 131. 133. 136. 155. 238. 504. 554. 583. 596, 597. 612. 661.
*Boteler,* 136. 652.
Botetort, 46, 47, *note.* 64. 154. 501. 597. 612. 674.
Botiler, 518. 651.
Botreaux, 573.
*Botreaux,* 244. 296.
Boucher, 379, *note.*
Boudry, 350.
Boulogne, 659.
Boult, 240.
Bourchier, 37. 179. 238, *note.* 308. 407. 409. 584. 655.
Bourdeaux, 414. 436.
Bouverie, 264. 326, 327. 369. 685.
Boveton, 632.
Bovey, 148.
Bowden, 651. 678.
Bowles, 224. 289. 290. 507.
Bowton, 102,
Bowyer, 182, 183. 224. 327. 328. 382, 383. 410. 468. 472. 548, 549. 587. 651.
Boyden, 119.
Boyland, 296.
Boyle, 553. 557.
Boys, 164 356, 357. 608.
Box, 129. 315. 528. 685.
*Brabant,* 421.
Brace, 501.
Braci, 78. 640.
Bracy, 589.
Bradenham, 518.
*Bradford,* 407.
Bradſhaw, 567. 676.
Bradſtock, 384.
Braham, 182. 435.
Bramſton, 118.
Brand, 608.
*Brandenburgh Anſpach,* 182.
Brandon, 251. 356. 426. 631.
Brandreth, 16, 17. 100. 105.
Braoſe, 417.
Braundeſton, 445.

*Bray,*

*Bray*, 14. 79. 122. 136. 549.
Bray, 11. 46. 48. 50. 78, 79. 99. 101. 136. 140. 146, 245, *note*. 248. 297. 316. 361. 424. 426, 427. 531. 554, *note*. 602. 605. 618. 666.
Braybroke, 2. 44. 70. 120. 124. 138. 147. 182. 238. 254. 316. 444. 582. 627.
*Braybrooke*, 167. 179. 182. 235. 301, 302, 339. 351, 352. 404. 410. 411. 414. 426. 442.
Brecknock, 573. 574. 627.
Bredon, 649.
Bredyman, 125.
Breedon, 181. 184, 323. 324.
Brent, 2. 44. 45. 107. 148. 417. 451. 533. 572.
Bresſy, 507.
Bret, 222.
Brett, 622.
Brettville, 139. 178.
Brewes, 497.
Brewer, 80.
Brewſter, 554.
Brian, 604.
Brickwood, 80.
Brideoak, 426.
Bridges, 271. 293, 294.
Bridgman, 642.
*Bridgwater*, 99. 471. 492. 536. 554. 587. 588. 620, 621. 630. 667. 675. 688.
Brightman, 93.
Brightwell, 322.
Brimpton, 251.
Brinkhurſt, 601.
*Briſtol*, 140. 585.
Briſtow, 555.
Britannia, 101. 418, *note*.
Brito, 466. 634. 668, 669.
Brittain, 130.
Britton, 586.
Brocas, 105. 185. 254. 263. 267. 376. 500. 522. 526. 536. 554.
Brocket, 108
Brockley, 543.
Broderwick, 311.
Bromflete, 33. 125. 151.
Bromhall, 130.
Bromſall, 60. 119.
Bromwich, 152.
Brook, 566.
Brooke, 388.
*Brooke*, 581.
Brooks, 16. 84. 87.
Brotherton, 235, *note*. 286. 294. 372. 435. 618.
Broughton, 12. 90. 143. 145. 437. 523. 545. 566. 584. 609. 672.
Brouncker, 256.
Brown, 107, *note*. 249. 271. 520, 568. 600, 601. 682, *note*.
Browne, 40, 41, 42. 103. 164. 221. 359. 419. 428. 452. 616. 642. 687.
Browning, 640.
*Brownlow*, 683.
Brownrig, 379.
Bruce, 63. 96. 115. 145. 470.
*Bruce*, 14. 38. 88. 96. 115.
Brudenell, 427. 468. 470. 474. 496, 497, 498. 535. 577. 607. 635. 686.
*Brudenell*, 246. 266.
Bruere de la, 151.
Bruges, 554.
Brummell, 259. 358.
Brun, 627.
Brus, 101. 365.
Bryan, 92. 620. 625.
Bryant, 532. 557.
Brydges, 359.
Bryen, 118.
Bryers, 126.
*Buccleugh*, 548. 639.
Buchanan, 138.
Buck, 442. 520.
*Buckingham*, 101. 141. 294. 372. 409. 466, 467. 469, 470, 471. 476. 496. 498, 499. 505, 506. 510, 511, 512. 520, 521, 522. 525, 526. 529. 546. 552, 553. 563. 574, 575. 578, 579. 595. 609, 610, 611. 625. 627. 636. 640, *note*. 641, 642, 643, 644, 645. 647, 648. 650. 660, 661, 662, 663. 673.
*Buckinghamſhire*, 469. 544. 573.
Buckle, 185. 259. 560.
Buckler, 271.
Bucktot, 499.
Buckworth, 382.
Bugden, 499.
Bulbec, 533.
Bullen, 439.
Buller, 428.
Bullock, 131. 235. 473. 534. 553.
Bulſtrode, 266, 468. 508. 535. 577. 581. 653, 654.
Bunny, 246.
Bunting, 156.
Bunyan, 53. 82.
Burdett, 237, 238. 283. 305. 308. 413.
Burgeſs, 343.
Burgh, 40. 276. 544.
Burgherſt, 179. 291. 356. 554. 633.
Burgoyne, 15. 124. 130. 138. 139. 155.
Burke, 474. 508
*Burleigh*, 115.
Burley, 431.
Burnell, 128. 597. 612.
*Burnell*, 440.
Burton, 95.
Bury, 354. 474. 587.
Buſby, 468. 494, 495. 569. 680, 681.
Buſhell, 179. 260. 288.
Buſſell, 605, 606.
Buſſy, 396.
Butcher, 126.
*Bute*, 14. 22. 108, 109, 110, 111. 113, 114. 406.
Butler, 85. 122. 283. 304. 388. 410. 504. 678.
Butlin, 474. 651.
Butterfield, 506.
*Byng*, 14. 133.
Byng, 118. 120. 133, 134.
Byron, 562.

C.

Cadogan, 182. 345.
*Cadogan*, 182. 470.
Cæſar, 434.
Cage, 532.
Calcraft, 622.
Caldecot, 61.
Calt, 32.
Calton, 315, 316.
Calveley, 375.
Calvert, 258. 315.
Camden, 243. 396. 398. 641.
*Camden*, 557.
Camois, 288.
Campion, 517. 539. 596. 658.
Campbell, 16. 60.
Camvil, 373.
Cantilupe, 11. 62. 78. 99. 146, 543. 555.
Capel, 258, 259.

Capon, 106.
*Cardigan*, 247. 266. 432. 474. 535. 635.
Carew, 263, 325. 377. 408. 546.
Carey, 115. 382. 522. 526.
Carleton, 656. 688.
*Carliſle*, 432.
Carly, 429.
*Carnarvon*, 137, 164. 317. 470. 471. 656. 666. 679.
Caron, 630.
*Carrington*, 469, 470. 480. 499. 506. 516. 610. 659. 676. 677.
*Carru*, 181. 263.
Carru, 181.
Cart, 75. 77.
Carte, 446.
Carter, 541. 547. 575.
Carteret, 93.
*Carteret*, 14, 15. 17. 50. 57. 93. 150.
Caſtell, 52. 94.
Caſton, 234.
Caſtillon, 372, 373.
Cater, 13. 101, 102. 622.
Cateſby, 110. 115. 573. 655.
Catharine, of Arragon, Queen, 37. 75. 285. 320. 528. 547. 627.
Catharine, Queen of Henry V. 396.
Catheral, 588.
Catlin, 89.
Cave, 540. 592.
Cavendiſh, 86. 471. 474. 537, 538, 539.
Cawz, 137. 520. 630.
Cawood, 281. 599.
*Ceadwall*, 217. 219. 438.
*Ceauline*, 1.
Cecil, 410. 412. 423. 499. 508.
*Centwin*, 217.
*Cenwallus*, 161.
*Cerdic*, 450. 536.
Chaceport, 588. 625.
Chaloner, 498. 544.
Chamberlain, 379. 647.
Chamberlayne, 75. 299. 341. 557. 578. 615.
Chamberleyne, 78. 105. 356. 651.
Champe, 372.
Champernon, 365.
Champion, 88.
Champlain, 429.
Chandler, 298. 561.
Chandos, 674.
*Chandos*, 355. 562. 631.
Chapman, 589. 626. 629.
*Charles* I. 2. 52. 87. 152. 164. 220. 259. 277. 307. 317. 318. 331. 335. 340, 341. 360. 397. 421. 425. 428. 517. 523, 524. 528. 538. 568. 612. 616. 637. 656. 680.
*Charles* II. 333, 420. 423. 427. 433. 677.
*Charleville*, 587.
*Charlotte*, Princeſs, 435.
Charlton, 82.
*Charnock*, 12. 15. 70. 98. 100. 129. 142.
Chartres, 670.
Chaſe, 521. 600. 602. 624. 670.
Chaſtillon, 594. 633, 634. 648.
*Chatham*, 557.
Chaucer, 104. 179. 219. 227. 251. 291. 324. 356. 396. 554. 624. 633.
Chaworth, 283. 505.
Chelrey, 245, 259. 260.
Chelſum, 592.
Cheney, 14, 33. 66. 72. 90. 143, 144, 145, 146.
*Cheney*, 143, 144, 145. 620.
*Cherry*, 249. 363, 364. 405, 406.
Cheſham, 539.
Cheſney, 88.
Cheſter, 83. 106. 141. 471. 523. 540. 541. 593. 630.
*Cheſter*, 101. 394. 466.
*Cheſterfield*, 470. 473. 500. 530. 551. 554. 566. 583. 640. 656. 666. 667.
Chetwode, 11. 42. 122. 290. 467. 473. 540.
Chew, 75. 77. 554.
Cheyne, 110. 114. 138. 142. 273. 279. 305. 354. 444. 468. 491. 496. 537. 539. 542. 547. 552. 584. 604.
Chibnall, 501. 627.
Chilcot, 577.
Child, 125. 211. 218. 219. 381. 389. 427.
Childrey, 259.
Chiſhull, 83.
Choke, 237, 354.
Cholſey, 225.
Chowne, 568.
Chriſtie, 55.
Church, 202, *note*. 248.
Churchill, 60. 535. 609.
Churton, 670.
Cibber, 664.
Cifrewaſt, 263. 287, 325.
Cilla, 219.
Ciſſa, 217. 219.
*Clanbraſſill*, 606.
*Clanrickard*, 275.
*Clare*, 116. 387.
Clare, 138. 141. 149. 232. 287. 372. 374. 511. 526. 568. 598. 609. 633. 672.
*Clarence*, 242. 612. 662.
*Clarendon*, 384.
Clarges, 336. 638.
Clarke, 95. 128. 184, 185, 186, 235, 236. 293. 323. 330. 635.
Clavering, 156, 586.
Claypoole, 555.
Clayton, 13. 138. 437. 472. 534. 535. 568. 599, 600. 605.
Cleaver, 563.
Clement, 608.
Cleobury, 600.
Clerk, 341. 361.
Clerke, 96. 99. 155. 471, 472. 579. 628. 683.
Clermont, 72. 115.
*Cleveland*, 143. 221. 639.
Cliffe, 354.
Clifford, 47, *note*. 151. 528. 530. 544.
*Clifford*, 547.
Cline, 634.
Clinton, 425. 491. 509. 576. 580.
*Clinton*, 123. 314.
Clowes, 474.
Coare, 663.
Coates, 201, *note*. 216. 338. 347. 349.
Cobb, 131, 133.
Cobham, 167. 185. 235. 361, 362. 468. 497. 542. 552. 574. 604. 667.
*Cobham*, 89. 459. 525. 637. 641, 642.
Cock, 676.
Cockayne, 41. 92. 272. 683.
Cockerill, 311.
Cocket, 80.
Coghill, 587.
Coke, 243. 364. 468. 529. 561. 578. 622. 636. 637.
Cokkyng, 413.
Colborne, 570.
Colby, 65.

Cole, 250. 340. 494. 513. 515, *note.* 532. 558.
Coleham, 224.
Coleman, 72.
Coles, 519.
Coleſhill, 236, 264. 359.
Colet, or Collet, 473. 630. 659. 661.
Coligni, 446.
Colleton, 185, 301.
Collins, 184. 531. 617.
Colneye, 280.
Colſton, 266.
Columbers, 354.
Combe, 435. 536.
Compton, 593. 610. 669. 671. 685.
Comyn, 365.
Congreve, 184. 231. 281, *note.* 392. 412, *note.* 586.
Coningſby, 285.
Conolly, 66. 144, 145.
Conqueſt, 12. 96. 98, 99.
Conway, 336. 351, 352. 564.
*Conyngham*, 470. 580, 581.
Cook, 234. 334. 562.
Cooke, 288. 558.
Coope, 412.
Cooper, 36. 351.
Cope, 495.
Copperman, 577.
Coppin, 62, 63. 137. 556.
Corbet, 271, 272. 315. 389. 547. 595. 632.
*Corbet*, 470.
Corniſh, 15. 131. 133. 155. 374.
Cornewall, 281. 287. 388.
Cornwall, 13. 37. 87. 117. 320. 620.
*Cornwall*, 138. 226. 235. 284. 290. 312. 329. 394, 395, 396. 398. 401. 418. *note.* 451. 522. 531. 602. 619, 620. 626. 687.
Cornwallis, 46, *note.*
Cottington, 244.
*Cottington*, 244.
Cotton, 57, 58. 86. 109. 582. 621. 648.
Coucy, 13.
Coudray, 289. 322.
Court, 250. 402.
Courtenay, 365. 383. 431. 474. 536. 578. 655. 661.
*Courtenay*, 383.
Cove, 241.
Coventry, 237. 254.
Coward, 325.
Cowdray, 610.
Cowper, 284. 613, 614. 616. 661.
Cowſlade, 185. 359.
Cox, 144. 346. 663.
Coxe, 240. 359, *note.*
Coxhed, 321.
Cradock, 353.
Crane, 430. 597.
Cranfield, 72.
Cranford, 622.
*Cranley*, 432.
Cranleye, 273.
Cranmer, 75. 474. 501. 502. 567.
Cranwell, 630. 658.
Crauford, 332.
Craven, 179. 181, 182. 236. 274. 279. 286. 290. 304. 308. 312. 370. 372. 390. 685.
*Craven*, 167. 181, 182. 195. 236. 245. 274. 284. 286. 304. 305. 308. 315. 332. 371, 372, 373. 383. 390, 391. 685.
Crawley, 16, 17. 102. 110. 113, 114. 140. 156.
Crayle, 532.
Creſſey, 107.
Creſſwell, 594.
Crevequer, 149. 251.
Crew, or Crewe, 85. 86. 186. 251. 444. 583. 614 620. 628. 684.
*Crew*, 85. 91.
Cricket, 473. 681.
Criſpe, 631.
Criſpin, 393. 398, *note.* 466. 586. 654. 675.
Croft, 184, 185. 385, 386, 387, 388.
Crofts, 301, *note.*
Croke, 535. 541. 555, 556. 589. 598. 614, 615.
Crompton, 81. 372. 611. 640.
Cromwell, 68. 165. 240. 277. 332. 354. 397. 440. 527. 555. 571. 641.
*Cromwell*, 502.
Croſs, 39.
Croſsbecy, 292.
Croſſe, 516.
Crowdy 279. 685.
Croyſer, 128.
Crutchley, 185. 382. 442.
Cullen, 661.
*Cullen*, 272.
Culverden, 352.
*Cumberland*, 303. 415. 432. 437.
Cummins, 298.
*Cunobeline*, 450.
Curteys, 29. 33. 151.
Curwen, 497.
Curzon, 149. 470. 494. 618. 619. 685.
*Curzon*, 467. 470. 608. 618, 619. 661.
Cuſt, 12. 92.
*Cutha*, 1.
Cuthbert, 88. 137, 138.
*Cuthred*, 161.
*Cuthwulf*, 1. 43. 502.
Cwicchelm, 161.
*Cymbeline*, 450.
*Cynric*, 450. 536.

## D.

Dabridge court, 376.
Dacres, 115.
Dalbiac, 296.
Dalby, 301. 336.
Dale, 282.
Dalton, 232. 245. 282. 361.
Dalway, 592.
Dalzell, 250.
Damartin, 125. 155.
Damer, 194, *note.*
D'Amory, 395. 647.
Dancaſtle, 240, 241.
Dance, 440. 588.
Danvers, 46, *note.* 68. 233. 386. 388. 583. 636, *note.*
Darby, 323.
Darcy, 427.
Darell, 501. 542. 563, 564. 577.
Darrell, 182. 305, 306. 444. 531. 679. 687.
Darſic, 68.
*Dartmouth*, 593. 616. 669.
Daſhwood, 468. 567. 659. 676. 678, 679. 680.
Daſhwood-King, 472. 480. 567. 676. 678, 679, 680.
Daubeny, 101. 629.
*Daubeny*, 82.
Daunce, 244.
Davenport, 473. 534. 600.
D'Averenches, 149. 251.
*David*, King of Scots, 416. 418.
Davies, 72. 238.
Davis, 210, *note.* 323, 324. 677.
Davy, 409.
Dawe, 628.
Dawney, or De Alneto, 146.

Day, 75. 411.
Dayrell, 102. 123. 128. 134. 224. 467. 473, 474. 530. 595. 627. 642, 643.
De Alta Ripa, 365.
De Arches, or De Arcubus, 292. 655.
De Baa, 129.
De Bathe, 308.
De Bois, 539.
De Bofco, 509.
De Columbariis, 354.
De Grey, 411. (See Grey.)
De Haye, 687.
De Inſula, or De Liſle, 371.
De La Beche, 161. 178. 182. 206. 209. 212. 232. 233. 238. 245, 246. 258. 265. 287. 290. 324. 361, 362. 384. 395. 442. 445, 446.
*De-la-Beche*, 182. 233.
De la Grove, 497. 566.
De la Haye, 563.
De la Leye, 140.
De la Mare, 179. 231. 281. 313. 369. 378. 388.
De la Mote, 234.
De la Plaunch, 576.
De la Pole, 40. 124. 137. 179. 237. 251. 255. 282. 287. 291. 324. 356. 377. 444. 517. 554, 555. 602. 633.
De la Poyle, 303.
De Liſle, 57. 63, 64. 81. 371.
De Nodaries, 564.
De Ow, 178.
De Ripariis, 359.
De Rupibus, 411.
De Salis, 238.
De Scaccariis, 555.
De Suevia, 151.
*De Veſci*, 152.
Deacle, 667.
Dealtrey, 519.
Deane, 123. 362. 667.
Dearſley, 385.
Deering, 594. 687.
Deincourt, 542. 628. 671.
De Lawne, 129.
Dell, 87.
Dene, 346.
Denham, 517, 518. 582. 620. 655.
Deniſon, 658.
Dennis, 16. 101.
Denton, 438. 468. 471. 529. 563. 578, 579. 622. 625.
*D'Epernon*, 421.
Derbiſhire, 652.
*Derby*, 107. 109. 151. 155. 178. 277. 373.
Derham, 412.
Deſborough, 641.
*Deſmond*, 93, *note*.
Deſpencer, 242. 245. 294. 371. 372. 374. 418, *note*. 530. 538. 547. 568. 599. 675.
Deverell, 646.
Devereux, 383. 578. 611.
*Devon*, 365. 578.
*Devonſhire*, 96. 383. 431. 471. 537, 538, 539.
Dewe, 288.
Dewhurſt, 437.
Dickenſon, 16. 75.
Dicons, 105, 106. 114.
Digby, 564. 585.
Dillingham, 73. 131. 150.
*Dillon*, 468. 500. 574. 603. 623.
Dilly, 134.
Diſney, 635.
Ditchfield, 96. 127.
Dixie, 658.
Dixon, 146, *note*. 232. 305. 603.
Dobbs, 80.
Dod, 385. 571.
Doddington, 680.
Dodwell, 362. 364. 405.
Doe, 579.
Dogget, 327.
Doiley, see Doyley.
Dolling, 61.
Dolman, 318. 354, 355. 373.
Dominis de, 303.
Donne, 582. 627.
*Dorcheſter*, 182. 244. 656.
Dormer, 468. 471. 500. 527. 530. 536. 545, 546. 552, 553, 554. 566. 580, 581. 583. 603. 607. 623. 659. 665, 666, 667. 672. 677, 678, 679, 680.
*Dormer*, 468. 470. 580. 583. 607. 628. 665. 666.
Dorrell, 563.
Dorſet, 638.
*Dorſet*, 253. 431. 585.
Doughty, 427.
Douglas, 109. 527.
Dover, 125. 155. 359.
*Downe*, 371.
Downing, 304. 583.
*Downſhire*, 82. 182. 285. 287. 359.
Doyley, 178. 218. 220. 256. 300. 311. 393. 407. 466. 473, 474. 544. 568, 569, 570. 585. 628. 640. 651. 654. 675.
Drake, 299. 468. 471, 472. 474. 496, 497, 498. 608.
Drakelow, 129.
Draper, 182. 267. 382.
Drayton, 101, *note*. 111. 255.
Dreux, 648.
Drewe, 600.
Dreyer, 674.
Drokensford, 418, *note*.
Drope, 271.
Druel, 611.
Drummond, 313.
Drury, 535.
Duckenfield, 184. 352.
Dudley, 97. 147. 323. 325. 371. 376. 620.
Duffield, 605.
Dunch, 327. 397. 440.
Duncombe, 42, 43. 91. 105. 521, 522, 523. 545. 588. 633. 667. 672.
Dundas, 184. 305. 306.
Duppa, 352.
Dupré, 471. 474. 520. 532. 581. 603. 623. 670, 671.
Durdant, 549.
Durell, 285.
Durham, 88.
Durnford, 304.
Dyer, 62. 70, 71. 228.
Dymock, 519.
Dynely, 311. 375.
Dynham, 440.
Dyve, 3. 61, 62. 66. 99. 332. 451. 563. 612. 654.

## E.

*Ealkſwith*, 163. 295. 307. 407.
*Eardley*, 610, 611.
Earle, 185. 385.
Eaſt, 182. 300. 680.
Eaton, 289. 290.
*Edgar*, King, 217.
Edindon, 253. 264, 265.
*Editha*, Queen, 403.
Edmonds, 650.
*Edmund*, King, 215.
Edmund, St. 226.
*Edered*, King, 215. 217.
*Edward* I. King, 256. 277. 418. 565. 584.

*Edward*

*Edward* II. King, 329. 418. 423.
——— III. King, 74. 232. 236. 289. 418. 421. 423. 429. 469. 570. 584.
——— IV. King, 206. 210, 211. 330. 383. 424, 425, 426, 427.
——— V. King, 426. 644.
——— VI. King, 223. 229. 237. 240. 330. 619.
——— King, the Confeſſor, 403. 411. 413. 522.
——— King, the Elder, 1, 2. 43. 276. 450. 524.
——— King, the Martyr, 218. 262.
——— the Black Prince, 570. 627.
Edwards, 16, 17. 40. 93, 94. 130. 653. 685.
Edworth, 40.
*Edwy*, King, 215.
Edy, 508. 597. 644.
Egelwinns, 218.
Egerly, 645.
Egerton, 99. 433. 495. 587.
*Egfrid*, King, 219.
Eglesfield, 370.
Egleton, 555.
Ekeney, 615.
Ekins, 623.
Elderfield, 290.
*Eleanor*, Queen, 74. 247. 256. 394. 417. 644.
Elford, 372.
*Elgin*, 33. 63. 96, 97. 115.
*Elizabeth*, Queen, 223. 233. 275. 296. 330. 335. 358. 407. 422, 423. 430. 466. 518. 560. 571. 579. 584. 620. 627. 636. 662. 665.
*Elizabeth*, Queen, Conſort of Henry VII. 596.
Ellesfield, 236.
*Elleſmere*, 620.
Ellingham, 105, 106.
Elliot, 184. 241.
Ellis, 436.
Ellys, 600.
Elmes, 128.
Elmer, 509.
Elſyng, 283.
Elwes, 185. 305. 315.
Elwood, 535.
Elyot, 360.
*Emma*, Queen, 403. 411.
Enderby, 57. 81. 139.
Engayne, 129.
*Engayne*, 130.
*Engleſield*, 180. 183. 209. 262. 274, 275. 277, 285, *note*. 323. 341. 344. 380, 381. 390. 553.
Eraſmus, 612.
Erle, 255. 380. 387.
Erneſt, or Erneys, 118.
Ernulph, 566.
Erpingham, 278.
Eſpec, 10. 89. 148.
Eſſex, 179. 182. 236. 250. 273. 308. 310. 329. 365, 366. 372, 373.
*Eſſex*, 67. 74. 164, 165. 220, 221. 230. 284. 295, 296. 299. 317, 318. 324. 331, 332. 335. 341. 357. 390. 446. 451. 496. 504. 611. 612. 655.
Eſtbury, 308. 309.
*Ethelred*, King, 2. 160. 163. 262.
Etholwold, 217.
Ethelwolf, 328.
Etheridge, 599.
Etyngdon, 445.
Eure, 586.
*Eure*, 586.
Evelyn, 397. 531, 532.
Everitt, 142. 149.
Evington, 435.
*Evreux*, 178. 366. 418, *note*.
*Exeter*, 37. 39. 46. 135. 211. 235. 289. 308. 383. 427. 578. 658.
Expence, 263.
Eyre, 182. 250. 467. 531, 532. 617.
Eyſton, 180. 185. 228. 256. 288, 289. 292.

F.

Faſiton, 84.
Fagg, 103.
Fairfax, 165. 301, 302. 318. 332. 397. 452. 517. 524.
*Fairfax*, 301.
Faldo, 115.
*Falkland*, 164. 318. 599.
*Falmouth*, 628. 684.
Falweſley, 518.
Fane, 238. 531. 679.
*Fane*, 238.
*Fanhope*, 13. 37. 39. 87. 96. 117. 142. 155.
Farborough, 646.
Farendon, 500.
Faringdon, 323. 334.
Farmer, 266, 267.
Farnham, 623.
Farrer, 92. 102. 519, 520. 593. 611.
Faukener, 602.
Fayrey, 76.
Fazakerly, 361, *note*.
Fell, 314. 382.
Fenn, 53.
Fenton, 285. 292.
*Fenton*, 38.
*Fermanagh*, 467. 470. 495. 510. 542. 565. 647.
Fermband, 520.
Fermor, 108. 149. 392. 567.
Ferrars, 60. 178. 241. 319. 373. 387. 546. 552. 687.
*Ferrars*, 241. 287. 627.
Ferrers, 62, 63. 137. 563.
Fettiplace, 179. 182. 187. 234. 240. 247. 252. 260. 265. 288. 306, 307. 311, 312. 314, 315. 326. 360. 361. 365. 369. 374. 380. 441.
Fetto, 656.
Field, 63. 72. 110. 427. 608.
Fielding, 331.
Fiennes, 406. 432. 659.
Filiol, 545.
Finaunce, 100, 134.
Finch, 247. 406. 625.
Fines, 666.
*Fingall*, 180. 251. 361. 444.
Finmore, 294. 342. 649.
Firmband, 11. 42. 100. 520.
Fiſher, 33. 69, 70. 84. 87. 101. 119. 236. 303. 382.
Fitchet, 304.
Fitz, 126.
Fitz-Alan, 534. 580. 605.
Fitz-Anſculf, 178. 391. 466. 612.
Fitz-Bernard, 494. 550.
Fitz-Count, 163. 393. 533. 586. 654. 675.
Fitz-Euſtace, 629.
Fitz-Garret, 141.
Fitz-Gerald, 251. 610.
Fitz-Herbert, 258.
Fitz-Hugh, 150. 554. 657.
*Fitz-Hugh*, 266.

Fitz-Jeffery, 12. 41. 69. 124. 129. 140. 662.
Fitz-John, 544. 623.
Fitz-Maurice, 676.
Fitz-Neale, or Fitz-Nigel, 509. 516, 517.
Fitz-Nicholas, 652.
Fitz-Otes, 46.
Fitz-Other, 178. 431. 466. 531. 560. 687.
Fitz-Parnell, 295.
Fitz-Piers, 387. 496. 504.
Fitz-Richard, 84. 87. 258. 508.
Fitz-Rolf, 178.
Fitzroy, 181. 433.
Fitz-Walter, 263.
Fitz-Warren, 74. 121. 178, 179. 210, 211. 234. 307, 308. 407, 408, 409.
*Fitz-Warren*, 407, 408.
Fitz-William, 102. 120.
*Fitz-William*, 38.
Fleetwood, 60. 116. 501. 534, 535. 557. 607. 662.
Fleming, 512, 513.
Flitwick, 100.
Flory, 348.
Floyer, 109.
Folham, 248.
Foliot, 138.
*Folkſtone*, 182. 264. 327.
Fonnerau, 238.
Foot, 435.
Ford, 343.
Forman, 222, 324. 596.
Forſter, 179. 182. 213. 230, 231. 246. 270, 271. 281. 313. 369. 378. 412. 437.
Fort Le, 91.
Forteſcue, 399. 413. 468. 471, 472. 495. 553. 575. 610, 611. 629. 663. 668.
*Forteſcue*, 583.
Foſſey, 76.
Forſter, 508. 633. 685.
Fountain, 583.
Fowke, 355.
Fowler, 105. 141. 344. 467. 498. 524. 526. 528. 621. 632, 633. 645. 687.
Fox, 52. 123. 344. 573.
Foxley, 247. 249. 627.
Francis, 82.
*Francis*, I. King of France, 420.
Frank, 635.
Franklin, 17. 61. 105, 106. 132. 551.
Franklyn, 41. 119. 123.
Frankys, 645.
Fray, 682.
Freake, 264.
*Frecheville*, 427.
*Frederick*, Prince of Wales, 351. 647.
Fredewald, 502.
Freeman, 132. 351. 468. 562.
Freemantle, 473. 500.
Fremband, 42.
Frethorne, 259.
Friend, 579.
Frogatt, 563.
Frognall, 348.
Fromont, 685.
Fulgeres, 651, 652.
Fuller, 146, 147. 237. 247. 386. 388. 519. 669.
*Furnival*, 561.
Furye, 369.
Fynderne, 260.
Fyſhe, 119. 281.
Fyſher, 314.
Fytton, 381.

## G.

Gabbit, 185. 370.
Gage, 221. 230. 451. 517. 610.
*Gage*, 611.
*Gainſborough*, 520. 593.
Gale, 403.
Gallini, 186. 287. 445, 446.
Gallis, 435.
Gardiner, 47, 48. 405. 534. 581.
Gargate, 533.
Garrard, 310. 551. 637.
Garſtin, 16. 91.
Garth, 553.
Garway, 248.
Gaſcelyn, 256.
Gaſcoigne, 47. 64, 65. 80. 96.
Gaſtrell, 283.
Gateſdon, 521.
Gatiſden, 591.
Gauden, 250.
Gaveſton, 258. 387. 395.
Gawdy, 273.
Gay, 442. 586.
Gayer, 637.
Gee, 597.
Geering, 272.
*George* III. King, 300. 420.
*George*, Prince of Denmark, 434.
George, 266.
Gerard, 500, 501. 523.
Gerbier, 275. 286.
Gernon, 594.
Gery, 16. 36. 79, 80. 135. 140. 311.
Gibbard, 131.
Gibbins, 118.
Gibbon, 527, 528.
Gibbs, 642.
Gibwen, 596. 602.
Giffard, 10. 78. 262, 263. 293. 466, 467. 469. 498, 499. 511. 520. 522. 525, 526. 536. 541. 546. 552. 575. 578, 579. 609, 610, 611. 626, 627. 630. 652. 662, 663. 665. 672, 673.
Gifford, 53. 224. 573. 581. 645.
Gilbert, 343. 646.
Giles, 407. 427. 683.
Gill, 682.
Gilo, 466.
Gilpin, 67. 95.
Girund, 467. 553. 563.
*Glenorchy*, 85.
Glover, 366.
*Glouceſter*, 56. 107. 113. 138. 141. 149. 220. 276. 295. 330. 372. 374. 395. 414. 418, *note*. 427. 432, 433. 437. 568. 599. 655.
Gobion, 94. 136.
Goddard, 249. 297. 685.
Godfrey, 290.
Godolphin, 559. 561. 638.
*Godolphin*, 471. 561. 622. 638, 639.
Godolphyn, 314.
Godric, 614.
Godwin, 230. 442.
Godwyn, 250.
Golafre, 210. 227. 234. 281, 282. 315.
Golding, 185. 301. 380.
Goldington, 106. 395.
Goldſmith, 136.
Goldſworthy, 248.
Goodall, 473. 550, 551.
Goodlake, 185. 310. 684.
Goodman, 434.
Goodrich, 527.
Goodryngton, 234.
Goodwin, 105. 137. 469. 532. 547. 655, 656. 664, 665. 669, 670, 671.
Goodyer, 281. 414.
Gooſtrey, 607.
Gordon, 211. 282.
Gore, 531. 556. 604.
Gorfyn, 314.

Gorges, 616.
Goſtwick, 12. 15. 33. 46, 47, 48. 71. 78 88, 89. 126. 149, 150, 151.
Gott, 474, 535.
Gould, 225. 586.
Gower, 184. 238. 301. 535.
*Gower*, 301, *note*. 497. 539.
*Gowran*, 14. 38.
Grace, 233.
Graham, 241.
Grandiſon, 307.
Grange, 500.
Granger, 374.
Grant, 186. 406.
Granville, 93.
*Granville*, 93.
Graves, 230.
Gray, 71. 383, *note*. 423. 557. 609. 638.
Greaves, 495.
Green, 80. 126. 396. 428. 657. 672.
Greenaway, 289.
Greene, 594.
Greeneway, 607.
Greenhill, 555.
Greenway, 582. 594.
Greenwood, 553.
Greeve, 299.
Gregory, 86. 498. 569.
Grenville, 433. 467. 470. 473. 563. 567. 599. 641. 643. 665. 673, 674. 687.
*Grenville*, 470. 532. 579.
Greſham, 293.
Greſley, 543.
Grevell, 271.
Greville, 389. 538.
Grey, 11. 14. 37. 60. 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91. 93. 99. 101. 117. 125, 126, 127. 136. 150. 258. 353. 371. 387. 404. 500. 511, 512. 515. 520. 534. 542. 628, 629, 630. 644. 662. 674. 687, 688.
*Grey*, 11, 14. 78. 84, 85. 96. 113. 127. 131. 143. 155. 235. 264. 330. 404. 491. 510, 511, 512, 513. 559. 592. 629. 662, 663.
Greyſtock, 80.
Griffith, 323. 415. 632. 656.
Grocyn, 612.
*Groſvenor*, 619, *note*.
Grove, 409.
Grubb, 468. 474. 582. 627.
Guildford, 545. 646.
*Guildford*, 47, *note*.
Guiſe, 40, 41. 599.
*Guiſe*, 279.
Gumble, 677.
Gumley, 552.
Gundulph, 566.
Gunning, 688.
Gurney, 102. 105.
Gwynn, 432.
Gyfford, 543.

## H.

Hacket, 545, 546.
Haddon, 595.
Hagar, 140.
Hakeborne, 369.
Hakeville, 495. 659.
Hale, 81, 435.
Hales, 222. 557. 559.
*Halifax*, 593.
Hall, 267. 347. 350. 554.
Hallet, 167. 185. 277. 440.
Hallings, 88.
Halſey, 41. 637.
Halſtead, 379.
Halton, 379.
Hamblen, 298.
Hamilton, 351. 411. 613, 614.
Hammond, 69, 642. 680.
Hamond, 183. 415.
Hampden, 279. 451. 467. 470. 508. 523. 536. 551. 553. 570, 571. 574, 575. 580. 588, 589. 592. 607. 626. 635. 659. 667. 670.
*Hampden*, 14, 15. 56. 61. 66. 69. 134. 467. 470. 570, 571. 580. 589, 626. 659, 660.
Hampſon, 470, 471. 646, 647. 658.
Hanchet, 680.
Handlo, 516.
Hanger, 249.
Hankeford, 286. 308. 407. 409.
Hanley, 234.
Hanmer, 472. 474. 494. 619, *note*. 630. 632.
Hannes, 361.
Hanſcomb, 672.
Hanſlape, 571. 597.
Hanſted, 495.
Harbert, 283.
Harbord, 548.
Harcourt, 185. 213. 263. 415. 438, 439, *note*. 473. 606. 656. 681.
*Harcourt*, 293. 294. 438, *note*.
Hardinge, 544.
*Hardwicke*, 85, 86.
Hardwood, 501.
Hare, 534, 535.
Hareng, 648, 660.
Harman, or Hammon, 140.
Harneys, 118.
*Harold*, 13. 86. 91.
Harpeden, 311.
Harper, 52, 53, 54, 55. 687.
Harrington, 184. 414. 534.
Harris, 94. 131. 352. 435. 530. 608.
Harriſon, 281. 301, 302. 349. 512.
Hart, 86. 226. 410, 411.
Hartley, 179. 253. 321. 357, 358. 360. 382.
Hartwell, 145.
Harvey, 17. 33. 119, 120. 414. 472. 590.
Harwood, 613.
Haſcard, 638, 639.
Haſelden, or Hazelden, 12. 88.
Haſtings, 62. 66. 69. 86. 101. 273. 415. 467. 494. 500. 522. 532. 550. 583. 592. 598. 620. 635. 638, 639. 661.
*Haſtings*, 60. 108. 373. 427. 638. 639.
Hatch, 374. 438. 630.
Hatford, 291.
Hatten, 313.
Hatton, 237. 497. 636.
Haute, 281. 359.
Haverſham, 576.
*Haverſham*, 470. 471. 576.
Haviland, 619.
Hawes, 325, 326. 600.
Hawkins, 106. 165. 221. 225, 226. 569.
Hawley, 240.
Hawtrey, 365. 532. 555. 577. 598.
Haycock, 337.
Haydock, 513. 650.
Hayes, 248. 263. 406. 645.
Hayter, 253.
Hayton, 516.
Hayward, 194. 252. 281. 287.
Hazelden, 88.
Hazell, 353.
Head, 179. 183. 185. 265. 303. 324.

Heane, 217. 219.
Heard, 422, *note.*
Hearne, 407.
Heath, 288.
Heavyſide, 352.
Hebbes, 515.
Heberden, 435.
Hele, 71.
Hen, 570.
Hene or Henne, 436, 437.
Heneage, 262. 590.
Hengiſt, 217.
Henley, 15. 148.
Henn, 182.
*Henry*, I. King, 28. 73. 76. 178. 211. 220. 328. 334. 414. 416. 423.
*Henry* II. King, 250. 329. 385, *note.* 416. 522.
*Henry* III. King, 296. 220. 277. 329. 423. 466. 522.
*Henry* IV. King, 13. 242. 277. 419.
*Henry* V. King, 221. 242.
*Henry* VI. King, 74. 220. 425. 429.
*Henry* VII. King, 58. 345, 346. 419. 426. 428. 430.
*Henry* VIII. King, 13. 38. 40. 59. 71. 75. 108. 330. 420. 425, 426. 428. 528.
Henſhaw, 258, 259.
Heraclius, 329.
Herbert, 76. 267. 320. 567. 589.
*Herbert*, 387.
Herclond, 208. 444.
Herdſon, 314.
*Hereford*, 294. 497. 619.
*Hertford*, 511. 586. 684.
Herne, 108. 110. 185. 240. 248. 433.
Herſchell, 654.
Hertrugge, 305.
Hervey, 65. 70. 81. 100. 129. 140. 395. 541.
Heſdin, 142. 317.
Heſſe, 87.
Hetherington, 560, 561.
Hewitt, 279.
Heylin, 224.
Heywood, 593. 628.
Hibbert, 473. 535.
Hickman, 647.
Hicks, 473. 519.
Higgins, 16. 545.
Hilderſley, 95. 303.
Hildeſley, or Hilſey, 303.
Hiley, 347.
Hill, 86. 126. 304. 389. 468. 548. 654. 661.
Hillerſdon, 71. 81, 82. 95. 387. 635.
Hilleſdon, 374.
*Hillſborough*, 652.
Hilſey, 303.
*Hinchinbrooke*, 593.
Hinde, 89. 281. 474. 568.
Hindley, 136.
Hippeſley, 184. 309, 310, *note.* 410.
Hitch, 137.
Hoare, 474. 658.
Hobart, 544. 573. 590. 600.
*Hobart*, 469.
Hobbeſhort, 308.
Hoby, 182. 243. 364.
Hoddeſdon, 104.
Hodenge, 560. 687.
Hodgkinſon, 235, *note.*
Hodgſon, 142.
Hoeſe, or Huſe, 280.
Holbeach, 56. 562. 669.
*Holderneſs*, 132. 427. 608.
Holland, 37. 184. 235. 289. 440. 458. 542. 547. 565. 659.
*Holland*, 305. 308. 366. 369. 397. 414. 511.
Hollier, 598. 687.
Holroyd, 618.
Holt, 140. 230. 345. 597.
Holwell, 230. 261.
Holyman, 547.
Home, 92.
Honeywood, 87. 427.
Honner, 106.
Hoo, 11. 108. 110, 111.
*Hoo*, 108.
Hook, 54.
Hooke, 380, 381. 578.
Hooker, 552.
Hooton, 613.
Hopkins, 185. 236. 262. 290. 388, 389. 474. 535. 617. 664. 684.
Hopper, 597. 633.
Hopſon, 239, 240.
Horne, 84. 672.
Hort, 472.
Horton, 357. 555.
Hory, 446.
Hotham, 381.
*Hotham*, 381.
Houblon, 186. 245. 256. 325. 390. 412. 413.
Houchons, or Hutchings, 222.
Hough, 378.
Houton, 47.
Howard, 65. 150. 181. 281. 358. 636, 637. 640.
*Howard*, 182. 352.
*Howe*, 144.
Howe, 572.
Howell, 62. 570.
Hucks, 167. 316. 398, 399.
Huddleſton, 185. 248.
Hudſon, 536. 568.
Hugford, 576.
Hughes, 312.
Huit, 130.
Hulcote, 252, 253.
Humet, 626, 665.
Humfrey, 244.
Humphreys, 556.
Hungerford, 180. 261. 295, 296, 297, 298. 342. 407. 467. 494. 522. 532. 550. 598. 635. 639. 661.
*Hungerford*, 296, 297. 639.
*Hunſdon*, 115. 375. 526.
Hunt, 129. 321. 361. 435. 563. 657. 668.
Hunter, 184. 361, 362.
Huntercombe, 155, 531. 560.
*Huntingdon*, 37. 81. 101. 135. 235. 289. 360. 393. 522. 532. 635. 638.
Huntred, 435.
Huſbands, 268, 269.
Huſe, or Huſſie, 280. 297. 316.
Huſſey, 267. 366
Hutchinſon, 252
Hutton, 609.
Huxley, 79.
Hyde, 223, 224. 271, 272. 302. 326. 359. 361. 378. 383.
Hynde, 577, 578.

## I.

Illingworth, 49, *note.*
*Ina*, King, 245.
*Inchiquin*, 646.
Inge, 149.
Ingelo, 559.
Ingleton, 491. 501. 631, *note.* 634. 648, 649. 672.
Inglis, 15. 118.
Ingoldſby, 420. 471. 527, 528. 550.
Inkpen, 304.
Irby, 473. 532. 577. 586.

*Ireland*,

*Ireland*, 277.
Iremonger, 105.
Irenceſter, 48.
Ireton, 109.
Iſaacſon, 658.
*Iſabel*, Queen, 379.
Iſbury, 211. 309.
Iſherwood, 186. 414, 415. 435.
Iveri, 178. 326. 466. 585. 625. 648. 660.
Ives, 586.
Iwarby, 325. 377.

J.

Jackſon, 68.
*James* I. King, 285. 330. 335. 340. 430. 459. 511.
*James* II. King, 302. 333. 420. 428.
James, 163. 182, 183. 238. 258. 259. 265. 287. 298. 306. 316. 324. 378. 402. 517. 674.
Jarponville, 650.
Jeamſon, 628.
Jekyl, 565.
Jefferies, 109. 471. 563. 653, 654. 675.
*Jefferies*, 471.
Jemmet, 280. 305, 306.
Jenkins, 42. 349.
Jenkinſon, 598.
Jenkyns, 397. 419.
Jennings, 12. 90. 144. 290. 341. 378.
Jerningham, 273. 289. 334.
*Jerſey*, 531.
Jervoiſe, 468. 474. 628.
Jeys, 349.
*John*, King, 74. 163. 329. 366. 394. 416, 417. 451. 572.
*John*, King of France, 418. 421.
*John*, King of Portugal, 360.
Johnſon, 15. 52. 109. 118. 144. 245, *note*. 305. 311. 341. 518. 529. 554. 616. 631.
Johnſton, 415.
Jolliffe, 91.
Jones, 237. 283. 305. 308. 351. 392. 413. 688.
Jonſon, 109.
Jordan, 436. 491. 549.
Jourdan, 88.
Junius, 426.
Juſtice, 185, 186. 213. 384. 441.

K.

*Katharine*, Q. 396. (See Catharine.)
Keate, 303. 313.
Keck, 314. 685.
Kedermiſter, 590, 591.
Keith, 55.
*Kelly*, 38. 292. 405.
Kempenfelt, 185. 299, 300.
Kemeys, 369.
Kemys, 494.
Kendrick, 182. 322. 339. 341. 349, 350, 351. 389.
Kennet, 303. 585.
Kenrick, 570.
*Kenſington*, 262.
*Kent*, 11. 13. 33. 37. 40. 70. 84, 85, 86, 87. 90, 91. 127. 135. 376. 387. 415. 512. 520. 659.
Kent, 388. 433. 642.
Kenulf, 369. 383.
Keppell, 263. 428.
Keryell, 304.
Keynes, 519. 606.
Kidgell, 554.
Kidwelly, 244. 440.
Killegrew, 153.
Kilpin, 597.
Kimber, 322.
Kinewulf, 160. 219. 220. 438.
King, 123. 249. 425. 472. 480. 567. 587. 590. 640. 673. 676. 679. 680.
Kingſley, 130.
Kingſmill, 236.
Kingſton, 211. 259. 260. 280.
*Kingſton*, 572.
*Kinnaird*, 240.
*Kinnoul*, 573.
Kirby, 316.
Kirk, 634.
Knapp, 474. 597. 629.
Knight, 260. 352. 388. 572.
Knightley, 576.
Knolles, 181. 262. 284. 374. 685.
Knollys, 185. 335. 341, 342. 437. 659.
*Knollys*, 96.
Knowles, 183. 437.
Knox, 301.
Kyme, 107.
Kynbell, 95.
Kyrke, 136.

L.

Lacy, 70. 235. 237. 251. 265. 337. 442. 608.
Lake, 155. 442. 500.
*Lake*, 500.
Laken, 249. 263.
Lambard, 498. 526. 528.
Lambert, 137. 436, *note*.
Lamplow, 442.
*Lancaſter*, 138, 139. 163. 242. 283. 295. 298. 330. 395. 419. 526.
Lane, 109. 568. 572. 580, 581. 634. 653.
Laneſley, 262.
Lanfranc, 566.
Langele, 417.
Langford, 161. 178. 233. 236. 238. 246. 265. 287. 290. 554.
Langham, 237.
Langley, 15. 94. 312. 476. 494.
Langſton, 474. 533, 534. 575, 576. 583. 622.
Langton, 45. 81. 294.
Lannoy, 59.
*Lanſdown*, 676.
Laſcelles, 653.
Latimer, 47. 57. 61. 64. 126. 138, 139. 154. 538. 545.
*Latimer*, 46.
Latton, 244. 306, 307.
Laud, 229. 339. 343. 345, 346, 347. 350. 434. 436. 443. 605. 637, *note*.
*Lauderdale*, 420.
Launcelyn, 71.
Law, 185. 249.
Lawley, 108, 109.
Lawrence, 471. 669.
Lawſon, 117.
Le Deſpencer, 679, 680.
Le Fort, 91.
Le Maire, 430.
Le Marchant, 677, 678, *note*.
Le Poore, 439.
Lea, 542. 632.
Leach, 83. 136.
Leader, 500.
Leaver, 316.
Leche, 349.
Ledet, 138.
Ledwell, 556. 589.

Ledwich,

Ledwich, 602.
Lee, 42. 94. 131. 225. 241. 324. 468. 470, 471, 472. 474, 475. 491. 500. 511. 550. 571. 574, 575. 603. 623, 624. 640. 681.
*Leeds*, 47, *note*. 561, 622. 638, 639.
Lefevre, 656.
Legh, 240.
Legoe, 606.
*Leiceſter*, 43. 47, *note*. 74. 107. 233. 270. 295. 305. 417. 446. 509. 561. 580. 607. 643. 651.
Leigh, 16, 17. 47. 72. 103, 104, 105. 587. 624. 632, 633.
*Leigh*, 194. 624.
Leighton, 95.
*Leinſter*, 470.
Lenham, 251.
Lennard, 647.
*Lenox*, 93. 96.
Lenthall, 181. 240. 419.
Lenton, 546.
Leofſtan, 476.
L'Eſtrange, 242. 660.
Levinz, 121. 128.
Lewes, 659. 679, 680.
Lewin, 299.
*Lewis*, the Dauphin, 74. 394.
Lewis, 104. 517. 685.
Leyborne, 297.
Leybourne, 82. 530.
Leyceſter, 186. 267.
Leynham, 388, 389. 582. 627.
Liebenrood, 185. 326. 389.
Limbrey, 541.
*Limerick*, 606.
*Linchlade*, 595.
Lincoln, 151.
*Lincoln*, 235. 237. 282. 337. 418, *note*. 425. 442. 444. 608.
Lind, 210, *note*.
Lindegreen, 437.
*Lindores*, 182. 248.
*Lindſey*, 420. 574.
Linford, 630.
Linneſey, 440.
Linton, 359.
Liſle, 239, 259. 277. 293. 312. 355. 667.
*Liſle*, 371.
Liſter, 96.
Liſures, 516.
*Litchfield*, 470, 471. 623.
Little, 222, *note*, 227.
Littleton, 165.
Litton, 435.
Liveſay, 125. 151.
Livingus, 204, 382.
Livius, 48. 102.
Llewellyn, 676.
Lloyd, 87. 246. 344. 390. 474. 580. 586.
Lockey, 549.
Lockman, 206.
Lockwood, 83.
Lodeer, 185, 186. 252, 253. 290. 294. 305. 314.
Loftin, 601.
London, 283. 334. 398. 414. 502.
Londres, 283.
Long, 102. 155 305. 609.
Longchamp, 416.
Longeſpee, 142. 235. 237. 305. 365. 608.
Longland, 559. 670.
Longueville, 60. 85. 132. 471. 657. 668, 669. 674.
Lonſdale, 388.
Lord, 553.
Loreyne, 446.
Loring, 33. 66. 67. 566.
Loughton, 597.
Lovaine, 416.
Loveday, 406.
Loveden, 181. 184. 194. 255, 256. 282. 374. 684.
Lovell, 521, 522. 542. 628. 671.
*Lovell*, 305. 511. 671.
Lovelace, 299, 300.
*Lovelace*, 144. 182. 299, 300. 351. 594.
Lovet, 178.
Lovett, 81. 467. 472. 510. 631, 632.
Lowe, 100. 544. 630.
Lowndes, 358. 468. 473, 474. 502. 537, 538. 545. 565. 572. 575. 629. 648. 662, 663. 668. 672.
Lowther, 427.
Lucas, 64. 85. 443. 617. 635. 688.
*Lucas*, 11. 14. 60. 70. 84, 85. 87. 89. 90, 91, 92, 93, 94. 136. 376.
Lucy, 110. 404. 416. 473. 536. 547. 576. 588. 595. 597. 684.
Luder, 598.
Luke, 3. 71. 72. 92. 332. 612.
Luſhington, 182. 685.
Lybbe, 325.
Lyford, 324. 374. 388.
Lynd, 342.
Lynn, 389.
Lyon, 224, 383.
Lyſons, 47, *note*.
Lytcott, 289.
Lyttelton, 660.
Lytton, 136.

M.

Macauley, 241.
*Macclesfield*, 381.
Mac Connell, 185. 341.
Mackaneſs, 556.
Mackay, 185. 415.
Macqueen, 16. 97. 127.
Mackreth, 325.
Maddiſon, 33. 75.
Magnaville, or Mandeville, 299.
Maigno, or Maignon, 552. 617.
Mainwaring, 246.
Major, 622.
Malet, 622.
Mallet, 581.
*Malmſbury*, 351, 352.
Malore, 95.
Malt, 390.
Malthus, 245. 347.
Maltravers, 260.
Malyns, 325.
*Mancheſter*, 2, 230. 318. 639.
Mandeville, 67. 178. 466. 496.
Manfeld, 647.
Manley, 380.
Mann, 560.
Manners, 552. 621.
Manſell, 304. 474. 592. 631.
Mansfeld, 586.
*March*, 320. 375. 544. 546.
Mareſchall, 47. 107. 142. 286.
Markham, 75.
*Marlborough*, 12. 15. 46, 47. 71. 114. 126. 150, 151. 249. 299. 360. 415, 421. 432. 469. 532, 533. 588. 590. 614. 632. 646. 655, 656. 664.
Marney, 589.
*Marney*, 522. 526.
Marriot, 630.
Marſh, 36. 73. 75. 77. 84.
Marſhall, 136. 286. 317. 319, 320. 365. 371, 372. 540. 652.
*Marſhall*, 235. 286. 546.
Martell, 254. 650. 663.

Marten, 164. 252. 273. 314. 331. 361. 366.
Martin, 99. 183. 250. 371. 615.
Martindale, 325.
Martun, 271.
Martyn, 503, *note.* 598. 602.
*Mary*, Queen, 330. 427.
*Mary*, Queen of Scots, 274.
Maſcall, 561.
*Maſham*, 590.
Maſon, 226. 228, 229. 383. 529. 587. 645, 646.
Maſter, 118.
*Matilda*, Queen, 599.
Matthews, 272. 283. 374.
*Matthias*, Arch-Duke of Auſtria, 446.
*Maud*, Empreſs, 163. 393. 416.
Mauduit, 533. 571, 572. 576.
Maule, 438.
Maundeville, 255.
Maunſell, 608.
*Maurice*, Prince, 318. 371.
Maxwell, 474. 507.
May, 293. 377. 405. 427. 503, *note.*
Maydwell, 83.
*Maynard*, 124.
Maynard, 544. 573.
Mayne, 16. 503. 549. 550, 551. 581.
Mayot, 223.
Mayott, 354.
Mead, 91. 94. 146. 435.
Meggott, 315.
Meeke, 247. 436.
*Melbourn*, 506.
*Melcombe-Regis*, 680.
Melhent, 599.
Melliſh, 556.
Merbrooke, 445.
Mercer, 519. 588.
*Mercia*, 307. 407. 599.
Mermylle, 312.
Merrick, 345. 347.
Mervin, or Mervyn, 281. 392.
Mepperſhall, 116, 117. 136. 509.
Metcalfe, 41. 129. 184. 262. 686.
Mews, 344.
Mewtes, 429.
Mey, 427.
Michel, 414.
Michell, 185. 297. 411.
Micklem, 248.
Mico, 388.
*Middleſex*, 13, 238, *note.*
Middleton, 357. 596. 617.
*Milbrook*, 37. 117.
Mildmay, 87. 373.
Miller, 76. 110. 658.
Mills, 185. 278. 360, 361. 522.
Milner, 146.
Milton, 535. 582.
Milward, 543. 565.
Minſhull, 497. 526.
Miſſenden, 606, 607.
Mitchell, 552. 598.
Mitchen, 519.
*Moels*, 244. 296.
Moels, 573. 574.
Mog, 442.
Mohun, 107. 319. 377.
*Moira*, 639.
Molins, 399. 402. 467. 494. 522, 523. 532. 548. 550. 563. 583. 598. 633. 635. 638. 639, 640. 659. 661.
*Molins*, 296.
Monk, 677.
*Monmouth*, 143. 145. 155. 344.
Monoux, 15. 21. 72. 130. 155.
Moutacute, 242. 286. 387. 500. 548. 563. 603. 654.
Montagu, 3. 70. 123. 185. 353. 552. 622.
*Montagu*, 242. 359. 427. 432. 582. 639. 662.
Montfichet, 681.
Montfort, 107. 163. 329. 351. 417. 580.
Montgomery, 99. 549. 575. 630.
*Montjoy*, 548. 553.
Moor, 365.
Moore, 16, 17. 79. 95. 119. 183. 267. 280. 283. 303. 413. 471. 475. 520. 605. 609.
Mordaunt, 84. 129. 146, 147. 519. 545. 593. 611. 660. 672.
*Mordaunt*, 14. 121. 146, 147. 593. 611.
More, 240. 280. 368. 526. 650.
Morell, 185.
Mores, or Morys, 216. 269, 270. 319.
Moreton, 582. 627.
Morgan, 255. 471. 473. 510.
Morin, 474. 603. 667. 687, 688.
Morland, 182. 378. 423.
Morrell, 105.
Morris, 110. 325.
Morſe, 567. 670.
Morteyne, 11. 105. 114. 141. 651.
Mortimer, 107. 178. 277. 319, 320. 544. 546. 375. 376. 662.
*Mortimer*, 395.
Morton, 124. 154. 545. 580. 605.
*Morton*, 466.
Moſsley, 87.
Moſtyn, 564.
Moton, 635.
Moubray, ſee Mowbray.
Mount, 186. 259. 385. 388. 412.
Mountagu, 438.
Mounteneye, 372.
Mountfichet, 590. 681.
Mount-Norris, 612. 614.
Mowbray, or Moubray, 10. 12. 46. 61. 71. 89. 92. 123. 126. 136. 150. 419. 572. 595. 602. 616. 618. 623. 629. 661. 666. 684.
*Mowbray*, or *Moubray*, 46. 48, 49, *note.* 89.
Moyer, 554.
Moyle, 533, 534.
*Mulesford*, 263.
*Mulgrave*, 406.
Mulſo, 323. 564. 634.
Munchenſi, 61. 64. 549.
Mundy, 413.
Murray, 247.
Muſard, 178.
*Muſard*, 387.
Muſgrave, 132. 311. 362.
Muſgros, 232. 265. 287.
Muſſenden, 622.
Muxon, 674.
Myers, 311.

## N.

Napier, 15. 52. 108, 109, 110. 132. 596, 597.
Naſh, 591.
Neale, 347. 542. 583. 672.
Neate, 184. 241.
Neile, 405.
Nelſon, 180. 185. 256, 257.
Nettleſhip, 639.
Neville, 13. 41. 46. 57. 61. 64. 124. 126. 139. 154. 179. 242. 301. 361. 372. 379. 404. 410. 411. 432. 442. 522. 530. 533. 545. 564. 599. 612. 655. 667.
*Neville*, 585. 586.
*Newcaſtle*, 60.
Newcome, 226. 230.
Newdegate, or Newdigate, 92, 93. 96. 541. 592.

Newenham, 495.
Neweton, 466.
*Newhaven*, 16. 468. 498. 539. 552.
Newman, 103.
Newmarch, 573.
Newton, 284. 593.
Nicholl, 616. 669.
Nicholls, 674. 680.
Nicolls, 38, 39. 137.
Nield, 604. 672.
Niger, 72.
Nivernois, 417.
Noble, 534.
Nodes, 95. 134. 136.
Noel, 519, *note*. 520. 593.
Noke, 363, 364.
*Norfolk*, 46. 150. 235, *note*. 286. 294, 295. 372. 407. 419. 432. 572. 616. 623. 629. 634.
*Normanby*, 469.
*Normandy*, 73. 163. 250. 329. 393.
*Norreys*, or *Norris*, 181. 247. 378. 439.
Norreys, or Norris, 3. 179. 181. 187. 213. 233. 247. 249. 254. 265. 267. 275. 282. 287. 292. 294. 302. 316. 362. 377. 382. 387. 399. 405. 410. 439. 445, 446. 590.
North, 58.
Northampton, 330.
*Northampton*, 96. 318. 372. 393. 592. 610. 669.
Northey, 617.
*Northumberland*, 10. 46, *note*. 323. 432, 433. 466. 525. 533. 587. 590. 607.
Norton, 70. 137. 615. 630.
Norwich, 398. 539.
Norwood, 150. 501.
*Nottingham*, 356. 358. 606. 625.
Nowers, 70. 151. 564, 565. 610.
Nugent, 474. 574.
Nugnes, 305.
Nutt, 291.

O.

Oates, 631.
O'Beirne, 357.
O'Brien, 646.
Ockenden, 199.
*Offa*, King, 43. 160. 219. 283. 438.
Ogilvie, 186. 415.
Okey, 39, 127. 683.
Oldham, 474. 491. 594. 607, 608. 635. 687.
Olivier, 69.
Olney, 556. 661.
Ongley, 15. 133. 148.
*Ongley*, 14, 15. 133. 148.
*Onſlow*, 182. 415.
*Orange*, 165. 269. 302. 333.
Ordgar, 217.
*Orford*, 557. 565.
Organ, 309.
*Orkney*, 470, 471. 646, 647. 671.
*Orleans*, 686.
Orlebar, 16. 83, 84. 125. 127. 131. 520.
*Ormond*, 446. 502. 504. 652.
*Orrery*, 532. 647.
Oſborn, 15. 34. 63, 64. 68. 93. 116. 683.
Oſborne, 535. 561. 582. 622. 638, 639. 651. 662.
Otewell, 607.
Otto, 394.
Ouchterlony, 254.
Outred, 557.
Ovey, 651.
Owen, 271. 293, 294, 545. 669.
Oxenbridge, 425.
Oxendon, 440.
*Oxford*, 115. 150. 259. 287. 501. 537. 590. 663.

P.

Pabenham, 11. 66. 83. 91. 123. 125. 149. 576. 684.
Packer, 179. 187. 253, 254. 356, 358. 360, 361.
Paganel, 178. 391. 466. 501. 540. 556. 581. 597. 612, 613, 614. 629. 653. 672. 680.
Paganell, 183.
Page, 43. 318.
Pagett, 123. 435. 546. 554. 577. 590. 600.
*Pagett*, 586. 599. 624.
Pakenham, 281. 556.
Pakington, 468. 471. 503, 504, 505. 510, 511. 555. 577. 583. 661.
Palliſer, 474. 534, 535.
Palmer, 16. 126. 148. 167. 185. 202. 233. 281. 301, 302. 316. 346. 352. 370. 377. 381. 441, 442, 443. 468. 472. 499. 531. 551. 663.
Palmorna, 414.
Pandulph, 334.
Paoli, 300.
Pargiter, 630.
Park, 615.
Parker, 27. 304. 577, 578.
Parkinſon, 587.
Parr, 376.
*Parr*, 91.
Parry, 254, 255. 273. 286. 376. 390. 399. 413.
Parſons, 471. 599. 656.
Partridge, 248, 249.
Parys, 48.
Paſſelew, 467. 553. 657.
Paternoſter, 292. 327.
Patſhull, 15. 47, *note*. 48. 58. 84. 102.
Paule, 249. 531.
Pauncefort, 473. 512. 521.
Pauper, 43.
Pavely, 11. 15. 58. 116.
Pawlet, 275. 375. 523. 589.
Paxton, 506.
Payn, 216. 247, *note*. 266, *note*. 267, *note*.
Payne, 16. 125. 140.
Paynell, 255, *note*. 387.
Peake, 58.
Pearce, 98. 319. 321. 338. 408.
Pearſe, 36. 50, *note*. 72. 261. 297.
Pearſon, 557.
Pecche, 307.
Peck, 88.
Peckham, 334. 510. 548. 549. 593.
Pedley, 41.
Peers, 262.
Pelham, 627. 655. 667.
*Pembroke*, 60. 72. 96, 97. 107. 109. 142. 286. 317. 319. 365. 371, 372, 373. 407. 418, *note*. 469. 499. 536. 585. 589. 652.
Pembrugge, 278. 363.
Pengree, 199.
Penicoke, 384.
Peniſton, 361. 642.
Penley, 303.
Penn, 467. 474. 560. 608. 637, 638, 639. 661. 665.
Pennant, 477. 528. 564.
Penroſe, 319.



Penthecoſt,

Penthecoſt, 218. 270.
Penton, 627.
Penyſton, 12. 90. 144. 149. 576.
Percel, 128.
*Perch*, 107. 142. 317. 353. 365.
Percy, 236. 413. 533.
Perfect, 185. 252.
Periam, 569.
Perkins, 281. 378. 392.
Perot, 542.
Perrers, 235. 289. 659.
Perrot, 282. 293. 311. 520.
Perry, 651.
Pert, 231.
Perteſhill, 128.
Pery, 50.
*Peterborough*, 14. 47, *note*. 146, 147. 352. 383. 519. 545.
*Petre*, 47, *note*.
Pettus, 366.
Petty, 676, 677.
Petyt, 234.
Peverell, 81. 359. 466. 495. 543. 634.
Peyvre, 11. 33. 90. 102. 123. 134. 142, 143, 144. 146. 541. 566. 592, 593. 609. 657. 672.
Phelip, 104. 258. 356.
*Philip*, King of Spain, 330.
Philips, 219. 506. 563.
Phillips, 244, 245. 284.
Phipps, 345. 405, 406.
Pickering, 154.
Pierrepont, 572.
*Pierrepont*, 470. 572, 573.
Piers, 294.
Pigot and Pigott 47. 57. 64. 90. 96. 126. 291. 313. 315. 362. 412. 468. 473. 508. 554. 565, 566. 572. 575. 581. 597. 622, 623. 629, 630. 633, 662, 663.
Pilſworth, 617.
Pinder, 685.
Pinfold, 657.
Pinkney, 243. 266.
Pipard, 596. 652. 667.
Pitchford, 131.
Pitman, 105.
Pitt, 238. 240. 374. 384.
Pixe, 657.
Plaiſtowe, 594. 622.
Plaiz, 590. 682.
Plantagenet, 13. 135. 224. 242. 330. 334. 387. 469. 662.
Platt, 288.
Pleſſitis, 440.
Pleydell, 180. 252. 279. 369. 371.
Plott, 313.
Plowden, 376.
Pluknet, 293.
Plumer, 267.
*Plymouth*, 431.
Pocklington, 156.
Pocock, 181. 185. 258, 259. 260. 269. 284.
Pococke, 652.
Poges, 467. 635.
Pole, 605. 614.
Polehampton, and Polhampton, 280. 302. 305.
Polhill, 41. 88. 126, 127.
Pollen, 284. 292.
*Polwarth*, 85.
Pomfret, 114, 115. 615.
*Pomfret*, 149. 432, 433.
Pope, 109. 114. 241. 285. 586. 642.
Popham, 289.
Pordage, 246. 343.
Porter, 278. 312.
*Portland*, 415. 432. 469. 470. 472. 535, 536. 541. 563. 654.
*Portſmouth*, 404. 551.
Pote, 216.
Potenger, Potinger, or Pottenger, 167. 265. 347.
Potter, 79. 97. 127.
Poulett, 473. 494.
Poulton, 526. 528.
*Powis*, 600.
Powle, 363.
Powley, 78. 81. 139.
Pownall, 27. 406.
Powney, 104. 247, 248. 414, 415.
Powys, 240. 325.
Poynings, 246. 361.
*Poynings*, 361.
Poynet, 404. 587. 678.
Poynter, 116.
Poyntz, 185. 387.
Praed, 247. 467. 474. 523. 556. 653.
Prankard, 342. 685.
Pratt, 182. 253. 264. 269. 366 428.
Prendegaſt, 387.
Preſton, 52. 411.
Price, 182. 185, 186. 280. 312, 313. 366. 380. 408, 409. 433. 501. 660.
Prior, 586.
Pritchard, 596.
Proby, 497.
Proctor, 247.
Pudſey, 416.
Pulford, 104.
Pulleyne, 130.
Punchardon, 374.
*Purbeck*, 636, 637.
Purcell, 439.
Purefoy, 182. 278, 279. 468. 563. 565. 609. 628.
Pury, 388.
Puſey, 180. 185. 326, 327.
Pye, 102. 277, 278, 279. 310. 311. 471. 518, 519. 619. 634.
Pyle, 265, 266.
Pym, 27. 109. 130. 135.
Pyrot, 90, 91. 126.

## Q.

Quaplode, 334. 335.
*Quarendon*, 470. 623.
Quarles, 569.
Quincy, 135. 295.
Quintin, 622.

## R.

Raan, 497.
Radcliff, 95, 127, 128. 267. 525. 668, 669. 674.
*Radnor*, 180. 182. 264, 265. 269, 270. 278. 326. 369. 684.
Radwell, 84.
Raghton, 155.
Raine, 55.
Rainton, 361.
Ralegh, 662.
Rampane, 260.
Ramſey, 303. 579. 608.
Randal, 608.
Rands, 84.
Randue, 426. 434, 435, 436.
*Ranelagh*, 437, 438.
Raper, 550, 551. 659, 660.
Ratchford, 119.
Ratcliffe, 81.
Ravenhall, 134.
*Ravenſworth*, 532.
Rawbone, 216. 251, *note*.
Rawdon, 279.
Raymond, 280. 290. 305, 306. 321, 322.
Read, 257. 413.

Reade, 47, *note.* 179. 183. 224. 239.
Rede, 517. 522.
Redhead, 676.
Reeve, 182. 248, 249. 435, 436. 532.
Reeves, 235. 344.
Reid, 406.
Reincourt, 138.
Reinolds, 145.
Remigius, 529.
Renda, 398.
Rendall, 354.
Renou, 296.
Reſbury, 345.
Reſtwold, 601.
Rethunus, 219. 383.
Revis, 614.
Reynald, 95.
Reynes, 33. 103, *note.* 105, 106. 114. 121. 468. 490. 544, 545. 573. 630.
Reynolds, 201, *note.* 418, *note.* 546. 574. 663.
Rice, 273. 605.
Rich, 226. 239. 240. 301. 339. 347. 379. 381. 441.
*Richard* I. King, 163. 329. 394. 403. 416, 417.
*Richard* II. King, 163. 235. 277. 330. 355. 379.
*Richard* III. King, 228. 427. 644.
Richards, 265, 266. 348. 350. 441.
Richardſon, 403. 528.
Richmond, 269. 370.
*Richmond*, 116. 155. 418, *note.*
Rickford, 506. 588.
Riddell, 138. 672.
Ridge, 546.
Ridley, 570.
Riſley, 506, 507. 540.
Rivers, 359. 672.
*Rivers*, 568.
Rivett, 555.
Rixband, 657.
Roberts, 441.
Robinſon, 119. 322. 324. 527, 528.
*Rocheſter*, 427. 656.
Roebuck, 583.
Rogers, 236. 273. 365, 366. 372, 373. 527. 528. 658.
Roke, 562.
Rokeley, 501.
Roland, 71.
Rolt, 118, 119.
Rolte, 365, 366.
Romaine, 236. 305.
Romenel, 494.
*Roos*, 121. 427. 569. 621.
Roper, 647.
Rotheram, 108, 109, 110. 113. 132. 136. 598. 607.
Rothwell, 388.
Roſe, 522. 567.
Roſs, 567.
*Roſslyn*, 471. 640.
Rowe, 42. 411. 630.
Rowland, 218. 270.
Rowlands, 664.
Rowley, 619.
Rowſe, 559. 560.
*Roxburgh*, 415.
Roy, 201.
Roycroft, 260.
Royſe, 225. 229, 230.
Rudge, 404. 672.
Ruding, 57. 528, 529.
Rudyerd, 444.
Rufford, 554.
*Rupert*, Prince, 165. 220, 221. 317. 419. 451. 612. 675.
Rupibus, 411.
Ruſh, 377.
Ruſhby, 597.
Ruſhworth, 645.
Ruſſel, 184. 240. 244. 555. 584. 600. 669.
*Ruſſel*, 13, 14, 15. 152. 154. 243. 470, 471. 491. 496. 500. 537. 584, 585. 665.
Ruſſell, 409. 663, 664.
Ruſtat, 423.
*Rutland*, 427. 622.
Ryder, 155.
Ryves, 426.

S.

Sabine, 15. 89.
Sackville, 13. 233. 561.
Sadelyng, 592.
Sadgrove, 316.
Sadleir, 17. 40, 41.
Sadler, 237. 316. 434.
Saint Albans, 83. 432. 437.
Saint Amand, 11. 37. 87. 96. 117. 148. 219. 228. 234. 238. 273. 315. 444, 445. 565.
*St. Amand*, 96. 181.
St. Cler, 500.
St. Elen, 219. 229. 315.
St. Giles, 84.
St. Hilary, 234.
St. John, 11. 14. 41. 48. 56. 58, 59, 60. 69. 80. 83, 84. 101, 102. 116. 129. 140. 152. 156. 186. 281. 325. 361. 377. 384. 589.
*St. John*, 14. 59, 60. 70. 72. 84. 116. 128. 131. 141. 523. 589.
St. Leger, 211. 272. 427. 596. 612.
St. Lis, 625.
St. Oſith, 502.
St. Philibert, or St. Philbert, 247. 273. 377.
*St. Philibert*, 255. 273. 288.
St. Walery, 40. 235. 294. 417. 625. 648. 660.
*St. Walery*, 266.
Saliſbury, 500. 600. 617.
*Saliſbury*, 96. 130. 142. 235. 237. 242. 267. 305. 365. 387. 417. 419. 421. 468. 499, 500. 508. 533. 608. 654.
Salmon, 153.
Salter, 248. 561. 587. 682.
Sambourn, 237. 263. 377.
Sambroke, 156.
Sancroft, 631.
Sandby, 415. 577.
Sanders, 647.
Sandford, 440.
Sandon, 576.
Sandwich, 149.
*Sandwich*, 353. 593.
Sandy, 596.
Sandys, 79. 285. 537. 605. 641.
*Sandys*, 79. 82. 240. 263. 297. 569.
Sankye, 554.
Sannerville, 88.
Sante, 218.
Sapcote, 584.
Saunders, 42. 123, 124. 258. 390. 535. 569. 603. 619. 658.
Saunderſon, 115.
Savage, 580. 648.
Savile, 301.
Saville, 559, 560.
Sawbridge, 413.
Sawyer, 151. 185. 405, 406.
Saxton, 184. 272. 283. 315.
Say, 123. 345.
*Say and Sele*, 566. 622.
Sayer, 236. 312. 468. 473. 510. 531.
Scawen, 582.

*Schomberg*, 397.
Schorne, 603.
Schutz, 40. 103. 615.
Sclater, 105.
Scoolt, 284. 685.
Scot, 503. 505. 518. 675.
Scott, 185. 380. 473. 492. 568. 605.
Scroggs, 312.
Scrope, 138. 568, 569, 570.
*Scrope*, 568.
Scudamore, 560.
*Scudamore*, 634.
Seare, 468. 536. 542. 576, 577. 604. 686.
*Sefton*, 640.
Segrave, 618.
*Segrave*, 619.
Selby, 474. 565. 575. 629. 650. 658. 662. 668. 672.
Selden, 85.
Selman, 535.
*Selsea*, 388.
Serjeant, 550, 551. 589.
Settle, 77.
Sever, 556.
Sewell, 99, 100.
Seymour, 81. 185, 186. 219. 310. 313. 354. 391. 471. 537. 590, 591.
*Seymour*, 264.
Shard, 185. 437.
Sharington, 256.
Sharow, 681.
Sharrock, 495.
Shaw, 306.
Sheafe, 298. 413.
Sheffield, 469.
*Sheffield*, 618.
*Shelburne*, 483. 675, 676, 677.
Sheldon, 88.
Shelford, 380.
Sheppard, 390. 467. 547. 555. 594. 648, 649. 658.
Sherborn, 346.
Sherwood, 284. 292.
Shipley, 119.
Shipman, 595.
Shippery, 260.
Shipwash, 568.
Shirley, 325.
Shone, 63.
Shore, 560.
Shortford, 323.
Shottesbroke, 366.
*Shrewsbury*, 40. 86. 255. 308. 365. 371. 466. 561. 661.
Shrimpton, 676.
Shuldham, 681.
Shute, 366, 367.
Sibbald, 185. 382.
Sibthorpe, 645.
*Sidmouth*, 381.
Sidney, 371. 651.
Siffrewast, 287.
Sill, 660.
Silver, 411.
Simmonds, 685.
*Sinclair*, 420.
Sismey, 123.
Skippon, 331. 452. 512, 517.
Skipwith, 554.
Skottowe, 537.
Slack, 184. 248.
Slayny, 120.
Sloane, 215.
Sloper, 186. 444.
Slythurst, 607.
Small, 473. 544, 545. 573. 576.
Smallwode, or Smallwood, 179. 320.
Smart, 140.
Smith, 73. 80. 84. 119, 120. 226. 233. 267. 269. 471. 495. 545. 560. 563, 604. 625, 630. 634. 663, 664. 670. 672. 681.
Smyth, 137.
Snagg, 47. 101. 106. 114.
Snell, 583.
Snow, 67.
Somerset, 426. 520.
*Somerset*, 58, 59. 263, 264. 295. 334. 354. 426. 431. 529. 544. 562. 586. 590. 678. 684.
Somery, 110. 178. 183. 245. 265. 303, 304. 306. 374. 391. 445. 466. 501. 556. 581. 597. 612. 614, 615. 653. 672.
*Sophia* of Glouceſter, Princeſs, 432.
Sotwell, 387.
Southam, 506.
*Southampton*, 181. 387. 654.
Southby, 179. 184. 186. 234. 252, 253. 303.
Southcot, 435.
Southcote, 272. 534.
Southey, 241.
Southouse, 126.
Southwell, 545. 620.
Sparke, 512, 513.
Spee, 10. 56.
Spencer, 15. 41. 71. 78. 114. 233. 304. 532. 553. 588. 599. 610 622. 632. 669. 671.
*Spencer*, 15. 58. 78. 106. 114. 130. 135. 301. 304. 360. 532. 553. 588. 601. 632.
Spenser, 662.
Sperling, 586.
Spersholt, 293.
Spicer, 134. 347, 348.
Spiers, 516.
Spigurnell, 69. 95.
Spiller, 589.
Spurgeon, 520.
Squire, 79.
Stackhouse, 239.
Stafford, 141. 240. 246. 372. 440. 469. 490. 496. 499. 519, 520, 521, 522. 526, 527. 541. 606. 609. 611. 629. 650. 672.
*Stafford*, 56. 283. 469.
*Stamford*, 688.
Stamp, 303.
Standen, 235. 238. 442.
Staues, 592.
*Stanhope*, 96. 581.
Stanhope, 398. 468. 470. 500. 530. 554. 557. 566. 580. 655, 656. 666, 667.
Stanley, 431.
Stanshaw, 337.
Stanton, 118. 154. 521. 545.
Stapleton, 316. 439, *note*.
Starkey, 435.
Staveley, 511.
Staverton, 179. 410. 443.
*Stawell*, 231.
Stead, 185. 357.
Steers, 568.
*Stephen*, King, 73. 163. 250. 277, 328, 329. 393. 416. 588. 606.
Stephens, 253. 378.
Stephenson, 185. 385.
Stepingley, 135.
Stevens, 127. 184. 233. 240. 246. 311. 411. 568. 581.
Stewart, 560.
Stewkley, 249.
Stigand, 393.
Stillingfleet, 139.
Stirling, 407.
*Stirling*, 241. 608.
Stockton, 267.
Stodel, 664.
Stoke, 635.
Stokes, 234. 251. 374, 375. 387. 425.

Stone, 127. 502. 545, 546.
Stonehouſe, 296, 297, 298.
Stonhouſe, 183. 327, 328. 353. 382. 549.
Stonor, 255. 272. 353. 362. 562. 681.
Storer, 185. 325. 326. 560.
*Stourton*, 47, *note*.
Stovill, 651.
Stow, 292.
*Straſford*, 109. 144. 637.
*Strange*, 237.
Stratfold, 659.
Stratton, 529.
Strongbow, 469.
Stuart, 182.
*Stuart*, 182.
Stukeley, 118.
Style, 608.
Styles, 410. 575.
Suckling, 324. 574.
Suffolk, 96. 104. 137. 181. 237. 251, 252. 291. 324. 356. 377. 426. 554. 602. 624. 631. 633.
Suckemond, 304.
Sullivan, 474. 586, 587.
Sumner, 532.
*Sunderland*, 164. 317. 568. 597.
*Sundon*, 13. 138.
*Surrey*, 666.
*Suſſex*, 60. 81. 132. 647.
Sutton, 245. 501. 595.
*Swain*, King of Denmark, 163. 392.
Swan, 597.
Sward, 451. 522.
Swift, 311. 642.
Swinford, 139. 611.
Swynſhide, 491. 554.
Sydenham, 580.
Sydney, 97. 496.
Sykes, 182. 238, 239.
Symes, 592.
Symmons, 532.
Symonds, 227. 233. 335. 409.

## T.

Talbot, 255, 256. 278. 365. 371. 499. 561. 610. 661.
*Talbot*, 360.
Tame, 312.
Tamworth, 65.
Tanfield, 40. 124.
*Tankerville*, 687.
Taſburgh, 576.
Tate, 257.
Tatterſhall, 281.
Tatſhall, 354.
*Taviſtock*, 97. 585.
Tayler, 513.
Taylor, 14. 40. 41. 69. 123. 130. 629. 681.
Teaſdale, 229.
Temple, 235. 471. 526, *note*. 538. 625. 632, 633. 640, 641, 642, 643. 647. 660. 674.
*Temple*, 469, 470. 529. 599. 641.
Teyes, 308.
*Teyes*, 102.
Thain, 540.
Theed, 554. 606. 630, 631.
Theobald, 406.
Theodoric, 232.
*Thomond*, 470. 646, 647.
Thompſon, 88. 100, 101. 246. 341. 426. 470, 471. 576. 596. 658. 680.
Thorne, 343. 345, 346. 349.
Thornhill, 371. 673.
Thornton, 16. 60. 119. 130. 683.
Thoytts, 185. 377, 378.
Throckmorton, 64. 129. 182. 252, 253. 364. 405. 625. 643. 661.
Thurbane, 555.
Thurloe, 501.
Thurſby, 572.
Tilney, 594.
Tipper, 628.
Tipping, 257, 258. 280. 388. 391. 563. 583. 628.
Tiptoft, or Tibtot, 568. 621.
Tirel-Morin, 474. 603. 667. 688.
Todenham, 684.
Todeni, 466.
Togodumnus, 450.
Tomkins, 245. 473. 661.
Tomlins, 495.
Tomſon, 435.
Tonbridge, 116. 128.
Tonſon, 248.
Toomer, 195.
Topham, 263. 315. *note*. 435. 560.
*Torrington*, 14. 16. 118. 124. 133, 134. 585.
Totehill, 496.
Tourney, 547. 633.
Tourville, 631, *note*.
Townſend, 47, *note*. 255. 583. 591. 674.
Towry, 437.
Towſey, 226. 293.
Travers, 430, 431.
Trally, or Traylly, 11, 34. 69. 119, 120. 156. 598. 684.
Trenchard, 185. 248.
Treſilian, 610.
Trevor, 16. 61. 69. 87. 134. 501, 502. 570, 571.
*Trevor*, 15. 62.
Trompeton, or Trompington, 60.
Troughton, 573.
Troutbeck, 674.
Troward, 568.
Trumbull, 285. 359.
Truſſell, 210. 212. 362, 363. 405. 414. 436.
Tudor, 13. 58.
Tull, 388.
Tulleſworth, 32. 141.
Turbeville, 256, 266. 292. 365.
Turner, 16. 43. 61. 124. 185. 312, 313. 572.
Turney, 495.
Turnor, 118, 119.
Turton, 246.
Turville, 618.
Twiſſe, 321.
Twitty, 229.
Tyes, 61.
Tyldeſley, 531.
Tynte, 583.
Tyringham, 123. 125. 467. 547. 556. 617. 629. 653. 665. 672.
Tyrrell, 374. 467. 471. 501. 533. 566. 572. 594. 615. 631, *note*. 633, 634. 648, 649. 672.
Tytley, 601.

## U.

Ufford, 47.
Ufton, 391.
Ulward, 317.
Umpton, or Unton, 243. 253. 277, 278, 279. 291. 360, 361. 365.
*Upper-Oſſory*, 14. 17. 36. 38, 39. 56. 87. 96, 97. 106. 118. 135.
Upton, 588.
Urſwick, 427.
Uſher, 615.

Uthwatt, 474. 596. 613.
Uvedale, 291.
*Uxbridge*, 254. 376. 586. 600.

V.

Vache, 534.
Vachell, 180. 332. 334. 337. 340, 341. 349. 362.
Valence, 60. 364, 365. 373. 407. 418, *note*. 499. 536.
Valpy, 346, 347. 375.
Vandermeulen, 137.
Vanhagen, 613, 614.
Vanhattem, 550, 551.
Vanlore, 182. 292. 389.
Vanſittart, 183, 184, 185, 186. 212. 243, 244. 247. 263. 280. 336. 362. 404, 405, 406.
Vaughan, 119. 165. 644.
Vaux, 69. 79. 137. 149. 534. 592. 632, 633.
*Vaux*, 66, 69. 79. 121.
Vavaſor, 624. 674.
Venn, 419.
Ventris, 63.
Verdon, 466. 561.
Vere, 259. 277. 287. 363. 405, *note*. 501. 533. 537. 595. 605. 643, 644. 658. 663.
Verney, 270. 412. 467. 470, 471. 495. 525, 526. 543. 549. 610, 611. 631. 675.
*Verney*, 412. 471. 510. 527. 543. 647.
Vernon, 90, 91. 241. 495. 619.
*Verulam*, 83.
Vieuville, 641.
Vigerous, 40.
Villiers, 104. 469. 471. 510. 512. 531. 575. 636. 662. 668.
*Villiers*, 469, 470. 636.
Vipont, 676.
Virley, 674.
Vis de Lou, 178. 363. 371.
Voſſius, 426.
Vyſe, 640.

W.

Wade, 13.
Waddington, 560.
Wadlowe, 142.
Waghorn, 248.
Wagſtaff, 125. 150.
Wahul, 11. 103. 122. 128. 146. 540.
*Wahul*, 10. 35. 122. 127. 625.
Wake, 46, 47, *note*. 61. 64. 135. 373. 535. 572. 617. 665.
*Wake*, 135.
Walcot, 62. 185. 408.
*Waldegrave*, 263. 559.
Walden, 375. 630.
Walerton, 431.
*Wales*, 224. 351. 435. 647.
Walker, 221. 227. 276. 284. 291. 299. 306. 360. 444. 517.
Waller, 221. 227. 266. 307. 318. 468. 474. 496. 498. 507. 524. 550. 557, 589. 675. 686.
Wallingford, 403. 675.
*Wallingford*, 181, 262.
Wallop, 551.
Walpole, 263. 433. 557. 560.
Walſingham, 274, 275.
Walter, 256, 257. 385. 431. 534.
Wanting, 308.
Warburton, 285, *note*.
Ward, 186. 249. 301, 302. 423. 436. 633. 688.
Waring, 385, 386, 387, 388.
Warner, 150. 316.
Warren, 400. 468. 546. 598. 602. 605. 666.
*Warren*, 328. 394. 418, *note*.
Warwick, 68, 69.
*Warwick*, 242. 262. 265. 323. 325. 330. 371. 374. 376. 440. 518. 530. 571, 572. 576. 581. 584, 585. 599. 612. 616. 623. 629.
Waſe, 548.
Waſey, 257. 303.
Waſhington, 267. 660.
Waſſell, 560.
Waſtie, 603. 617.
Waterhouſe, 663.
Waterland, 426.
Waters, 296.
Watſon, 96. 520. 663.
Watts, 325. 351. 373, 474. 572.
Waudari, 107. 113.
Wauton, 80.
Way, 473. 548, 549. 577. 654, *note*.
Waynfleet, 389. 556. 648.
Wayte, 236.
Weaver, 376.
Webb, 240. 269, 270. 350. 544. 684.
Webber, 186. 415.
Wedon, 497. 538. 667.
Weldon, 267. 323. 362. 391.
Welldale, 685.
Welles, 104. 676, 677.
*Welles*, 59.
Welleſbourn, 288. 506. 580, 660.
Wells, 245. 397. 403. 512. 556, 658. 687.
Welſtead, 96.
Welton, 151.
Wendover, 660.
Wenlock, 33. 107. 111, 112.
*Wenlock*, 30. 33. 97. 107, *note*. 108. 111, 112. 136
Wenman, 273. 468. 471. 652.
*Wenman*, 468. 547. 567. 589. 652.
Wentworth, 14. 66. 144, 145. 277. 365. 518. 531. 594. 621.
*Wentworth*, 143, 144, 145. 518, 519. 651.
Weſt, 181. 185. 347. 411. 519. 557. 594. 604. 624. 642. 651.
Weſtall, 401.
Weſtby, 429.
Weſtend, 442.
*Weſtmorland*, 46, *note*. 238, *note*. 680.
Weſton, 258. 541.
Weſtwick, 607.
Weſtwold, 301.
*Weymouth*, 93. 415.
*Whaddon*, 469.
Wharton, 670, 671.
*Wharton*, 469. 470. 471. 655. 664. 670, 671. 675.
Wheate, 586, *note*.
Wheeble, 186. 381.
Wheeldon, 137.
Wheeler, 442. 548.
Whethamſted, 32. 111.
Whichcote, 420. 537.
Whitaker, 159. 203. 449.
Whitbread, 16. 23. 51. 56. 65, 66. 81, 82. 89. 116. 124. 134. 148. 516.
Whitchurch, 535.
White, 237. 245. 282. 315. 339. 345, 346. 351. 404. 441, 442. 587. 678. 680.
Whitehall, 495.
Whitehead, 680.
Whitfield, 554.

Whitley, 305.
Whitlock, 232, 233, *note*. 351. 432. 442. 562. 568.
Whitmore, 405.
Whittingham, 467. 549. 575. 610. 640.
Whittington, 155.
Whitworth, 196.
Whorwood, 553, 629.
Wickham, 323. 376. 418. 611. 625. 649.
Widmer, 599.
Wigg, 606, 633.
Wightwick, 230, 254. 303. 404.
Wigod, 393.
Wilcocks, 299, 300.
Wilder, 325. 377.
Wildman, 273, *note*. 366, 367. 420.
Wilford, 667.
Wilington, 365.
*Wilington*, 365.
Wilkes, 104, 105. 146. 505.
Wilkins, 535.
Wilkinſon, 249. 474. 602. 634.
Willaume, 16, 17. 142.
Willes, 42. 296. 532. 684.
*William* the Conqueror, 212. 220. 393. 414. 416. 566.
*William* Rufus, 416. 511. 566, 567.
*William* III. 300. 420. 670.
*William*, King of Scots, 416.
*William*, Prince, 432.
*William* of Naſſau, 446.
Williams, 70. 185. 244. 248. 254. 293, 294. 299. 377. 439, 440. 513. 549. 563. 565. 582. 649. 651. 657. 664. 677.
*Williams*, 254. 439.
Williamſon, 42. 101. 136. 352, 646.
Willis, 293. 485. 494. 510. 512, 513, 514. 520. 525. 662, 663.
Willoughby, 369. 547. 600.
Wills, 66.
Wilmot, 409.
Wilſon, 184. 241. 246. 379, *note*.
Wiltſhire, 518.
*Wiltſhire*, 504. 596. 612.
*Wimbledon*, 636.
Winch, 15. 93. 599.
Winchcombe, 179. 182. 253, 254. 302. 354. 360. 385, 386.
*Winchelſea*, 625, 626, 634.
*Winchendon*, 470. 664.
*Wincheſter*, 135. 275, 276. 295. 375. 550. 571.
Windebank, 301.
Winder, 248.
Windſor, 178. 184. 245. 248. 256. 261. 284. 287. 289. 369. 380. 405. 406. 431. 466. 498. 507. 518. 531. 560. 573. 618. 626. 637. 676. 681. 687, 688.
*Windſor*, 405. 470. 518, 519. 681.
Windford, 645.
Wingate, 12. 39. 76. 104. 110. 137.
Winn, 258.
Wintle, 230. 250, *note*. 251.
Winwood, 582. 622, 623. 639. 662.
Wiſe, 438.
Wiſeman, 293. 375. 391.
Withers, 310. 660.
Wittewronge, 471. 632, 633.
Wode, 389.
Wodelock, 273.
Wodhull, 11. 103.
Wodley, 633.
Wolf, 568.
Wollaſcot, 180. 251. 361. 444
Wolſey, 65. 80. 257, 396. 399. 428. 540. 561. 613. 625. 664, 665. 669.
Wolſtenholme, 122.
Wolverton, 535. 597. 617. 668.
*Wolverton*, 648.
Wood, 501.
Woodcock, 387.
Woodhull, 540.
Woodnoth, 627, 648.
Woodward, 579.
*Worceſter*, 387, 388. 426.
Worſhip, 104.
Worthington, 167. 374. 407.
Wortley, 426.
Wotton, 559, 560. 606.
*Wotton*, 96.
Wowen, 185. 301.
Wray, 439.
Wren, 434.
Wrey, 407.
Wright, 140. 185. 266. 275, 276. 636, *note*. 682.
Wrighte, 452. 474. 564, 565. 634.
*Wriothesley*, 315. 384. 440. 510.
Wroth, 219.
Wroughton, 186. 250. 257. 280. 388. 391. 563. 628.
Wyat, 620.
Wyatt, 61. 119. 185. 248. 420.
*Wycombe*, 676.
Wydville, 100.
Wyld, 254.
Wylde, 61, 62. 97. 99.
Wymondeſold, 313. 408.
Wyvell, 107, *note*.

## X.

Ximenes, 184. 411.

## Y.

*Yarborough*, 83.
Yate, 182, 183. 252, 253. 256. 289. 408.
Yeats, 20. 36.
Yonge, 239.
Young, 137. 184. 267. 531.
*York*, 37. 220. 224. 375. 437. 572. 616. 659. 687.
Yorke, 261. 284, *note*.

## Z.

*Zeland*, 283.
Zouche, 11. 62. 78. 90. 99. 146. 374. 492. 541. 543. 545. 555. 597. 605. 635.
*Zouche*, 149. 501, 502. 510.

# GENERAL INDEX.

## A.


ABBESS-PARK at Burnham, 531.
*Abbey-Manor* at Lavendon, 593.
*Abel family*, memorials of at East-Claydon, 543.
*Abingdon*, account of, 216—230. The abbey, 217—219. Nunnery, 219. Early history of the town, and historical events connected with it, 219—223. Building of the bridges, 221, 222. Present state of the town, markets, fairs, manufactures, &c. 223. Manors, 223, 224. Parish churches, 224—226. Meeting-houses, 226. Eminent natives, *ibid.* Fraternity of the Holy Cross, 226—228. Schools and almshouses, 229, 230.
——— *Abbey*, account of its foundation, 217. Destroyed and rebuilt, *ibid.* Royal visits to it, 220. Remains of the building, 211, 218.
——— Earls of, 181. Their seat at Witham, 439.
*Achard*, family of, 178. Their supposed monuments at Sparsholt, 270.
*Ackworth*, *John*, his tomb and singular epitaph at Luton, 113.
*Adams family*, memorials of at Swanbourn, 646.
*Adderley*, manor of in Lavendon, 593.
*Addingrave*, a hamlet of Oakley, 615.
*Addington*, parish of, 494, 495.
*Adresham*, manor of in South Moreton, 316.
*Adstock*, parish of, 495.
*Agmondesham*. See *Amersham*.
*Akeley*, parish of, 498, 499.
*Akeman street*, its course through Buckinghamshire, 484.
*Aldermaston*, parish of, 230—232.
——— house, the seat of William Congreve, esq. 231.
*Aldrich*, Bishop, a native of Burnham, 532.
*Aldworth*, parish of, 232—234.
——— family, memorials of at Ruscomb, 352. at Wargrave, 411.
*Alfred the Great*, born at Wantage, 407. His victory over the Danes at Ashdown, 160, 161; at Eddington, 162.
*Alfred's castle*, an ancient earth-work, 214.
*Allestre*, Dr. Provost of Eton, 559.
*Alley*, *William*, a native of High Wycombe, 677.
*Alms-Knights* at Windsor, account of 429—431.
*Alston* of Odell, baronet, 16.
——— *family*, tombs of at Harold, 91; Odell, 122; Pabenham, 123.
——— Sir *Joseph*, his monument at Bradwell, 519.
*Altar*, *Roman*, found at Frilford, 199.
*Altham*, Lady, monument of at Leighton-Buzard, 104.
*Amersham*, town and parish of, 495—498. Borough, 495. Population, 496. Manors, 496, 497. Parish church, 497. Benefactions, 498.
*Ampthill*, town and parish of, 36—39.
——— castle and manor, 37, 38.
——— park, the seat of the Earl of Upper-Ossory, 17. 38, 39.
*Anderson*, Sir *Edmund*, his monument, and other monuments of the family at Eyworth, 83.
*Andrews*, Sir *Joseph*, his seat at Shaw-place, 355.
*Andrews-Court*, in Hanney, manor of, 288.
*Ankerwyke*, priory of, 681.
*Anne*, Queen, at Reading, 333. Her residence at Windsor, 420.
*Antonie family*, monuments of at Sharnbrook, 131.
——— *W. L.* his seat, *ibid.*
*Anville*, in Kentbury, manor of, 305.
*Appleford*, a hamlet of Sutton-Courtney, 384.
*Appleton*, parish of, 234. Ancient mansion there, 212. 234.
*Apsley*, in Ellesborough, manor of, 555.
*Arborfield*, parish of, 234, 235.
*Archer*, family of, 181.
——— *Thomas*, rector of Houghton-Conquest, his diary and monument, 98.
*Arches*, in East-Hendred, manor of, 292.

*Architecture*, Saxon, remains of in Bedfordſhire, 28, 29. in Berkſhire, 204, 205. in Buckinghamſhire, 486, 487.
——— early Gothic, remains of in Bedfordſhire, 29. in Berkſhire, 205. in Buckinghamſhire, 487.
——— later Gothic, remains of in Bedfordſhire, 29, 30. in Berkſhire, 206. in Buckinghamſhire, 487.
*Ardington*, pariſh of, 235, 236.
*Arleſey*, pariſh of, 39, 40. 683.
*Arnold Grey*, a toll gatherer, ſucceeds to a moiety of the Longueville eſtates, 132.
*Aſcot*, in Winkfield, manor of, 437.
—— houſe and hamlet in Wing, 666, 667.
*Aſhampſtead*, pariſh of, 236.
*Aſhbrook*, Lord, monument of at Shillingford, 361.
——— his ſeat at Beaumont lodge, 415.
*Aſhbury*, pariſh of, 236, 237.
*Aſhdown*, battle of, conjectures concerning its ſite, 160, 161.
——— *Park*, a ſeat of the Earl of Craven, 182. 236.
*Aſheridge-College*, foundation of 619. Diſſolved, 620. The conventual buildings pulled down by the Duke of Bridgwater, 492. 620, 621. 688.
*Aſhley-green*, a hamlet of Cheſham, 538.
*Aſhridge*, a hamlet of Cheſham, *ibid.*
*Aſhridge*, in Wokingham, manor of, 442.
*Aſkew Joſias*, tomb of, at Swanbourn, 646.
*Aſhmole Elias*, reſides at Bradfield, 246. At Englefield, 275.
*Aſpinal, Mr.* Rector of St. Peter's, Bedford; his tomb, 52.
*Aſpley-bury*, in Shitlington, manor of, 132.
*Aſpley Guiſe*, pariſh of, 40, 41.
*Aſſcpton, Matthew de*, his tomb at Shitlington, 132.
*Aſſizes* for the county of Bedford, ſaid to have been held at Ampthill, 37. Summer aſſizes for Berkſhire, held at Abingdon, 223. Spring aſſizes, formerly held there, 226. Spring aſſizes for Berks, at Reading, 339. Both aſſizes for ſome time held there; *ibid.* ſaid to have been ſometimes held at Wallingford, 400. Aſſize towns in Buckinghamſhire, 459. Aſſizes held formerly at Little-Brickhill, 459. 521. At Newport-Pagnell, 612. At High-Wycombe, 675.
*Aſton*, a hamlet of Ivinghoe, 588.
*Aſton-Abbots*, pariſh of, 499, 500.
——*Clinton*, pariſh of, 500, 501.
——*Sandford*, pariſh of, 501.
——*Tirold*, pariſh of, 237.
——*Upthorpe*, a hamlet of Blewbury, 244, 245.
*Aſtrey*, family of, 12.
*Aſtwick*, pariſh of, 41, 683.
*Aſtwood*, pariſh of, 501, 502.
*Aſtwood-bury*, manor of, anciently a ſeat of the Cranmers, 501, 502.
*Atterbury*, Biſhop, born at Milton-Keynes, 606.
——— *Lewis*, tomb of, at Milton Keynes, *ib.*
*Aubourn river*, its courſe through Berkſhire, 196.
*Aubrey*, of Dourton, baronet, 472.
——— his ſeat, 552.
*Avington*, pariſh of, 237, 238. Its remarkable church, 204. 238.
*Ayleſbury*, town and pariſh of, 502—506. Its early hiſtory, 502. Religious houſes, *ibid.* Borough, 503. Market, fairs, population, &c. 504. Manors, 504, 505. Church, &c. 505. Rectory, 505, 506. Benefactions, 506. Meeting-houſes, *ib.* Further account of ſome ancient hoſpitals there, 686, 687.
*Ayleſbury*, Earls of, 470. Their ſeat at Houghton-Park, 96, 97. Their burial-place at Maulden, 115.
*Ayleſbury*, family of, 505.
——— Vale of, 475.
*Aylward Theodore*, his tomb at Windſor, 427.
*Aynſcombe*, family memorials of, at Dunſtaple, 75.
*Ayſhcombe*, of Lyford, baronet, 182. 289.
——— memorials of the family at Weſt-Hanney, 289.

B.

*Babham family*, tombs of, at Cookham, 267.
*Babham-end*, in Cookham, *ibid.*
*Babbs*, in Milton-Erneſt, manor of, 119.
*Bacon Phanuel*, a native of Reading, 345.
*Badbury hill*, Berkſhire, ancient camp there, 214.
*Bagley-wood*, 383.
*Bagnor*, a hamlet and manor in Speen, 372, 373.
*Bag ſhot-heath*, 442.
*Bailiffs*, in Luton, manor of, 110.
*Baker-family*, their ſeat and tombs of, at Penn, 618.
——— William, a native of Reading, 345.
*Balking*, a hamlet and manor in Uffington, 390, 391.
*Balſden-Park* and manor, in Kentbury, 305.
*Baptiſtery*, at Luton, 31. 113.
*Barbour Jeffrey*, his benefactions to Abingdon, 222. 228, 229, *note*. his tomb, 225.
*Barcot*, in Buckland, manor of, 252.
*Bard family*, tombs of, at Caversfield, 534.
*Barford Great*, pariſh of, 41.
——— *Little*, pariſh of, 42. The church, 29.
*Barford-bridge*, 41.
*Barker family*, tombs and monuments of, at Dean, 72. At Hurſt, 302. At Sunning, 381. At Datchet, 548. At Great-Harwood, 575.
*Barkham*, pariſh of, 238.

*Barley-end* houſe in Ivinghoe, 588.
*Barlow William*, Prior of Biſham, and Biſhop of St. Aſaph, his five daughters, married to biſhops, 242, 243.
*Barn*, large at Bradfield, 246. Cholſey, 262. Great Coxwell, 270.
*Barnard St. John*, a native of Reading, 345.
*Baronets* of Bedfordſhire, 15; of Berkſhire, 182; of Buckinghamſhire, 471.
*Barrington*, pariſh of, 238.
*Barrington*, Admiral, his monument at Shrivenham, 368.
——— Daines, *ib.*
——— Lord, account of, 367. His monument at Shrivenham, 367, 368.
*Barton Hartſhorne*, pariſh of, 506, 507.
*Barton in the Clay*, pariſh of, 42.
*Barton Court*, in Kentbury, the ſeat of Charles Dundas eſq 305.
*Barton*, manor of, near Abingdon, 224.
*Barton family*, 467.
———, tombs of, at Thornton, 491. 649.
*Bartons*, in Thornborough, manor of, 647.
*Barworth*, a hamlet of Studham, 137.
*Baſilden*, pariſh of, 238, 239.
——— park, the ſeat of the late Sir Francis Sykes, 238.
*Baſkerville Hannibal*, his monument at Sunningwell, 382.
——— *Thomas*, buried at Windſor, his longevity, 428.
*Baſſets*, in Milton-Erneſt, manor of, 118.
*Baſſmead*, in Eaton-Socon, 80.
*Bate, Dr. George*, a native of Maids-Morton, 609.
*Bates*, in Edleſborough, manor of, 554.
*Bathurſt Allen Lord*, reſides at Battleſden, 43. At Richings Lodge, 586.
*Battery works*, at Biſham Abbey, 198.
*Battle*, near Reading, manor of, 342.
*Battle of Aſhdown*, 160, 161. Of Eddington, 162. Of Newbury, 317, 318.
*Battleſden*, pariſh of, 42, 43.
*Baylies*, in Stoke-Poges, ſeat of the late Lord Godolphin, 639.
*Baynes John*, buried at Windſor, his longevity, 428.
*Bayworth*, a hamlet of Sunningwell, 383.
*Beaconsfield*, pariſh of, 507, 508.
*Beadlow*, in Clophill and Houghton-Conqueſt, manor of, 70. 98.
*Beale Bartholomew*, his monument at Walton, 657.
*Beams*, in Shinfield, manor of, 361.
*Bear-Place*, in Wargrave, manor of, 411. Seat of Moris Ximenes eſq. 184.
*Beauchamp family*, 468. Tombs of, at Clifton-Reynes, 545.
*Beaufort Chapel*, and Monuments of the Duke of Beaufort's family at Windſor, 426.
*Beaumont and Aſſlecks*, in Little Miſſenden, manor of, 608.
*Beaumont Lodge*, in Old Windſor, the ſeat of Lord Aſhbrook, 182. 415.
*Beaumys Caſtle*, anciently a ſeat of the De la Beches, 361.
*Bechampton*, pariſh of, 508, 509.
*Becher family*, 12.
*Beches*, in Wokingham, manor of, 442.
*Becket-Houſe*, ſeat of the Barrington family, 182, 366.
*Bedford*, the county town, 43—56. Early hiſtory of, 43. The barony and caſtle, 43. 47. Collegiate church, 47. Religious houſes and hoſpitals, 47—49. Bridge, 49. The George, an ancient inn, *ibid.* Borough and Corporation, 50. Town-hall, Seſſions-houſe, and Gaol, 50, 51. Borough, 51. Population, *ib.* Markets, *ib.* Pariſh churches, 51—53. Meeting-houſes, 53. Free ſchool founded by Sir William Harper, 53, 54. His other charities, 54. 55. Houſe of induſtry, 55, 56. General infirmary, 56.
*Bedford Caſtle*, ſieges of, 2, 43—46.
*Bedford*, Earls and Dukes of, 13. Their monuments at Iſenhamſted Cheneys, 491. 584, 585.
——— Duke of, his ſeat at Woburn, 152, 153.
*Bedfordſhire*, its ancient inhabitants and government, 1. Hiſtorical events connected with that county, 1—3. Its ancient and modern diviſion, 3. Manors as deſcribed in the Survey of Domeſday, 4, 5; with their modern names. Its eccleſiaſtical diviſion, 5, 6. Monaſteries and Hoſpitals, 6. Markets and borough towns, *ibid.* Its population, 7—10. Its principal land-owners at various periods, and principal extinct families, 10. 13. Nobility of the county, 13, 14. Noblemen's ſeats, 14, 15. Baronets 15, 16. Principal gentry and their ſeats, 16, 17. Non-reſident families, 17. Geographical and geological deſcription of the county, 17, 18. Produce, 18. Natural hiſtory, foſſils, rare plants, and mineral ſprings, 19, 20. Rivers, 20—22. Roads, 22, 23. Manufactures, 23, 24. Antiquities, 24—35. Roman remains, 24. Roman roads and ſtations, 25—28. Church architecture, 28—30. Stained glaſs, 30, 31. Roodlofts ſcreens, &c. 31. Fonts, 31, 32. Stone ſtalls and *piſcinæ*, 32. Ancient tombs, 32, 33. Monaſtic remains, 33, 34. Sites of caſtles and caſtellated manſions, 34, 35. Camps and earth-works, 35. Parochial topography of Bedfordſhire, alphabetically arranged, 36—156.
*Bedgrove*, a hamlet of Weſton-Turville, 661.
*Beeches and Upbury*, in Pollux-hill, manor of, 126.
*Beedon*, pariſh of, 239.

*Beeke, Dr.* his conjectures concerning the battle of Eddington, 162. His remarks on the geology of Berkſhire, 187—190.
—— *Henry*, his tomb at Eaton Haſtings, 273.
*Beenham*, pariſh of, 239, 240.
*Beeſton*, a hamlet and manor in Sandy, 130.
*Beke family*, tombs of, at Shinfield, 362.
*Belleiſle Marſhal*, confined in Windſor caſtle, 431. Reſides at Frogmore, 433.
*Bell's, alias Conington's* fee, in Pertenhall, manor of, 123.
*Benefaction*, ſingular, at Farnham Royal, 561. At Princes Riſborough, 627.
*Bengers*, in Iver, 587.
*Benham Place*, ſeat of the Craven family, now of the Margrave of Brandenburgh Anſpach, 182. 373.
*Benham Hoe*, a hamlet of Welford, 413.
*Benham Lovell*, in Welford, manor of, *ibid.*
—— *Marſh*, in Spene, 373.
—— *Valence*, in Spene, manor of, *ibid.*
*Bennet family*, 468. 508. 687. Monument of, at Beckhampton, 509.
*Bennett's*, in Luton, manor of, 109.
*Benſon George*, an eminent preſbyterian divine, 226.
*Bent family*, monuments of, at Amerſham, 497.
*Bere Court*, in Pangbourn, the ſeat of Dr. Breedon, 323.
*Beriugton family*, tombs of, at Beenham, 240.
*Berkeley Catharine* Lady, her monument at Datchet, 548.
*Berkſhire*—Its etymology, 159. Ancient inhabitants and government, 159. Hiſtorical events connected with the county, 160—165. Its ancient and modern diviſion, 165, 166. Manors deſcribed in the Domeſday Survey, with their modern names, 167. 169. Eccleſiaſtical diviſion, 170. Monaſteries, colleges, and hoſpitals, 170, 171. Market and borough towns, 171, 172. Population, 172—177. Its principal land-owners at various times, and extinct families, 178—181. Nobility of the county and their ſeats, 181, 182. Baronets, 182. 184. Gentry and their ſeats, 184—186. Geographical and geological deſcription of the county, 187—191. Natural hiſtory, foſſils, rare plants, and mineral ſprings, 191—193. Rivers, 193—196. Navigable canals, 196, 197. Roads, 197, 198. Manufactures, 198, 199. Antiquities, 199—215. Roman remains, 199. Roman roads and ſtations, 200. 204. Ancient church architecture, 204—206. Ancient ſtained glaſs, 206. Roodlofts Gothic niches, &c. 206, 207. Fonts, 207. Stone ſtalls and *piſcinæ*, 207, 208. Ancient tombs, 208—211. Monaſtic remains, 211, 212. Caſtles, and ſites of caſtles, 212. Ancient manſion houſes, 212, 213. Camps and earth works, 213—215. Miſcellaneous antiquities, 215. Parochial topography of Berkſhire, alphabetically arranged, 216—446.
*Berkſhire*, earls of, 181.
*Bernard Edward*, rector of Brightwell, 250.
—— *Sir Francis*, monument of, at Ayleſbury, 505.
—— *Scrope*, his ſeat at Lower Winchendon, 474. 665.
*Bernes*, in Lambourn, manor of, 309.
*Bernwood foreſt*, 476.
*Berrow Capel*, his monument at Northill, of which pariſh he was rector, 120.
*Berry*, in White Waltham, manor of, 405.
*Berryſted*, in Mentmore, manor of, 688.
—— *Houſe*, in Ivinghoe, 588.
*Bertie family*, 179—439. Monuments of, at Wooburn, 671.
*Beſils family*, 179. 240.
—— *Sir Peter*, his benefactions to Abingdon, 222. 229, *note.*
*Beſils Legh*, pariſh of, 240.
*Betham Edward*, gives a ſtatue of King Henry VI. to Eton College, 559.
*Bettesworth John*, LL. D. his tomb at Luton, 113.
*Beverley Mary*, her tomb at Great Fawley, 280.
*Bibracte*, a Roman ſtation, 203.
*Bickerings Park*, in Ridgmont, 128.
*Biddenham*, pariſh of, 56.
*Biddleſton*, pariſh of, 509, 510. Foundation of the abbey, *ibid.* Remains of it in 1712, 510.
*Biddleſton houſe*, the ſeat of George Morgan eſq. 510.
*Bierton*, pariſh of, 510, 511.
*Bierton Stonors*, manor of, 510.
*Bigg John*, the Dinton hermit, 551.
*Biggleſwade*, pariſh of, 56—58.
—— *Church*, 30. 57.
*Bilinges*, in Penn, manor of, 618.
*Bill-hill*, in Hurſt, the ſeat of Colonel Gower, 301.
*Billingdon*, a hamlet of Cheſham, 538.
*Billington*, a hamlet of Leighton Buſard, 105.
*Binfield*, pariſh of, 240, 241.
*Birchfield*, in Great Barford, manor of, 41.
*Birchmore*, in Woburn, manor of, 154.
*Biſcot*, in Luton, manor of, 110.
*Biſham*, pariſh of, 241—244.
*Biſham Abbey*, foundation of, 242. Eminent perſons interred there, *ib.* Seat of Colonel Vanſittart, 243.
*Black Prince*, tradition of his being ſtruck by one of the Hampden family, 570.
*Blackburn, or Blackbull-hall*, in Thurleigh, 149.

*Blagrave family*, 180. Their tombs at Shrivenham, 369. At Sunning, 381.
——— *John*, his monument at Reading, 342. His eſtate at Bulmarſh, 381.
——— *John, his ſeat at Tylehurſt*, 389.
——— *Joſeph, a native of Reading*, 345.
——— *in Lambourn manor of*, 308.
——— in Waddeſdon, manor of, 656.
*Blake*, Sir *Richard*, his tomb at Didcot, 272.
*Blandford*, Marquis of, his ſeat at White-Knights, 380.
*Blandy family*, tombs of at Bradfield, 246. At Chaddleworth, 257. At Kingſton-Bagpuze, 307.
*Blechly*, pariſh of, 511—513.
——— *Over*, or *Church*, } manors of, 511.
——— *Weſt*, or *Old*, }
*Bledlow*, pariſh of, 515, 516.
*Bletſoe*, pariſh of, 58—60.
——— *caſtle*, ancient ſeat of the St. Johns, 59.
*Blewbury*, pariſh of, 244, 245.
——— *John de*, his monument at Shillingford, 210, 361.
*Blomer*, in Dinton, manor of, 551.
*Bloſſomville family*, 467.
*Blount family*, tombs of at Binfield, 241.
*Blower, John*, vicar of White-Waltham, his great age and long incumbency, 406. Anecdote of him, 407.
*Blundell family*, 12. Their tombs at Cardington, 65.
*Blundells*, in Northill, manor of, 119.
*Blunham*, pariſh of, 60.
*Boate*, judge, his tomb at Hilleſdon, 579.
*Bockhampton* in Lambourn, manor of, 308.
*Bockmer* in Medmenham, 605.
*Boleyn, Anne*, ſaid to have been born at Luton-Hoo, 108.
*Bolingbroke*, Lady, her tomb at Bucklebury, 254.
*Bolnhurſt*, pariſh of, 60, 61.
*Bolton, Robert*, vicar of St. Mary's, Reading, 344.
*Bonnel, James*, his ſeat at Old-Windſor, 415.
*Bonyforden*, in Stoke-Poges, 637.
*Boreſhill*, in Wotton, manor of, 444.
*Boreton*, a hamlet and manor in Buckingham, 526.
*Borlaſe family*, 468. 602.
*Borough towns* of Bedfordſhire, 6. Of Berkſhire, 171. Of Buckinghamſhire, 459, 460.
*Borſtall*, pariſh of, 516—518.
*Borſtall-houſe*, 492. 517.
*Boſton*, Lord, his ſeat at Hedſor, 577.
*Bothampſtead*, a hamlet and manor in Hampſted-Norris, 287.
*Boteler family*, tombs of at Harold, 91. At Meppershall, 117. At Sharnbrook, 131.
*Botelers*, in Edleſborough, manor of, 554.
——— in Weſton-Turville, manor of, 661.
*Botley*, a tithing of Cumner, 271.
*Botley*, a hamlet of Cheſham, 538.
*Bourchier*, Lady *Frances*, her monument at Cheneys, 584.
*Bourton*, a hamlet of Shrivenham, 369.
*Bouverie, Harriot*, her cenotaph at Coleſhill, 264.
*Boveney*, a liberty of Burnham, with a chapel of eaſe, 532.
*Bowells*, in Edleſborough, manor of, 554.
*Bowles, Edward* and *Elizabeth*, monument of at Hanney, 289.
*Bowſey-hill*, in Wargrave, manor of, 685.
*Bowyer*, of Denham-court and Radley, baronets, 182. 327. 472. 549. Monuments of at Denham, 549.
*Boxes* in Roxton, manor of, 129.
*Boxford*, pariſh of, 245.
*Box-wood*, extending over 100 acres of land, 476.
*Boy Biſhop*, proceſſion of, 558.
*Boycot*, a hamlet and manor in Stowe, 642.
*Boys family*, monuments of at Great Miſſenden, 608.
——— *John*, his ſpirited reply to General Middleton, and brave defence of Donnington-caſtle, 356, 357.
*Brach* in Luton, manor of, 110.
*Bracknell, New*, in Warfield, 410.
*Bradenham*, pariſh of, 518, 519.
——— houſe, ſome time a ſeat of the Windſor family, 519.
*Bradfield*, pariſh of, 245, 246.
——— houſe, ſeat of Mr. Stevens, 246.
——— hall, ſeat of Stephen Wilſon, eſq. *ibid.*
*Bradley*, a farm in Cumner, 271.
——— a manor farm in Hampſted-Norris, 287.
——— *Great*, in Cookham, manor of, 266.
*Bradſhaw*, Chief Baron, his monument at Halton, 567.
*Bradwell*, pariſh of, 519.
——— priory, 669.
*Bragenham*, a hamlet of Soulbury, 632.
*Braham family*, tombs of at Windſor, 435.
*Brand-fee*, in Little Miſſenden, 608.
*Brandreth family*, 17. Tombs of at Houghton-Regis, 102.
*Bray*, pariſh of, 246, 249. Story of its vicar, 249.
—— in Hartwell, manor of, 574.
—— family of, 11. 78, 79.
—— Sir *Reginald*, a great contributor to the building of the choir of St. George's chapel, 424. His chapel, 426.
—— Lady *Jane*, monument of at Eaton Bray, 79.
*Brayfield-cold*, pariſh of, 519, 520.
*Braywick*, a hamlet of Bray, 248.
——— houſe, the ſeat of the Hon. Thomas Windſor, *ibid.*
——— lodge, the ſeat of Thomas Slack, eſq. *ibid.*
*Breedon, William*, rector of Thornton, 649.

*Breedon family*, 181. Their tombs at Pangbourn, 324.
*Brent, Foulk de*, takes Bedford caſtle, 44. Seizes Henry de Braybroke one of the king's juſtices, confines him in Bedford caſtle, and defends it againſt king Henry III. *ibid.* Baniſhed the realm, 45. Receives manual chaſtiſement from the monks of Warden Abbey, 148.
*Brett, Richard*, his monument at Quainton, 622.
*Brian*, or *Wanting Brian*, manor of, 407.
*Brickhill-Bow*, pariſh of, 520.
——— *Great*, pariſh of, 520, 521.
——— *Little*, pariſh of, 521, 522. Sometime the aſſize-town, 521.
*Brideoake*, Biſhop, his monument at Windſor, 426.
*Brightman, Thomas*, vicar of Hawnes, 93.
*Bright-Waltham*, pariſh of, 250.
*Brightwell*, pariſh of, 250, 251.
——— *Court*, in Burnham, the ſeat of the Hon. Mr. Irby, 532.
*Brill*, pariſh of, 522, 523.
*Brimpton*, pariſh of, 251.
*Briſcoe family*, monument of at Shitlington, 132.
*Brock*, in Medmenham, manor of, 605.
*Brogborough*, manor and park in Ridgmont, 127, 128.
*Bromflete*, Sir *Thomas*, his tomb at Willington, 151.
*Bromham*, pariſh of, 61, 62. ſeat of Lord Hampden, 61.
*Bromſall*, family of, 13.
*Brook-end* in Northill, manor of, 119.
——— in Shenley, manor of, 629.
*Broomhall*, priory of, 382. 629.
*Broughton*, pariſh of, 523.
——— a hamlet of Bierton, 511.
——— *Holland*, or *Stavely*, manor of, 505. 511. 661.
——— family of, 11.
*Broughtons* in North-Crawley, manor of, 545.
*Browne family*, monuments of at Great Shefford, 359.
——— *Launcelot*, the landſcape gardener, 642.
——— *Moſes*, vicar of Olney, 616.
——— Sir *Samuel*, his monument at Arleſey, 40.
——— *Thomas*, buried at Windſor, 428.
*Browning*, Dr. his ſeat at Stoke-Poges, 640.
*Bruce, Giles*, his monument at Toddington, 145.
*Brudenell family*, 468. 684.
——— *Robert*, his monument at Windſor, 427.
*Brudenells*, in Chalfont St. Peter, 535.
*Bryant, Jacob*, his ſeat at Cippenham, 532.
*Bryers*, Sir *William*, monument of, 126.
*Bryttons*, or *Groves*, in Houghton-conqueſt, manor of, 97.
*Buckingham*, account of, 524—530. Its early hiſtory, 524. Borough, corporation, market, population, &c. 525. Manors, 525—528. Church and rectory, 529, 529. School and almſhouſe, 529. 530.
——— town and county, dukes, marquiſſes, and earls of, 469.
——— Marquis of, his ſeat at Stowe, 641, 642.
*Buckinghamſhire*—its etymology, 449. Ancient inhabitants and government, 449, 450. Hiſtorical events connected with the county, 450—452. Its ancient and modern diviſion, 452. Manors deſcribed in the Doomſday Survey with their modern names, 453—457. Eccleſiaſtical diviſion, 457, 458. Monaſteries and hoſpitals, 458, 459. Market and borough towns, 459, 460. Population, 460—465. Crown lands and royal palaces, 466. Principal landowners at various periods, 466—469. Nobility of the county, 469, 470. Noblemen's ſeats, 470, 471. Baronets, 471, 472. Gentry and their ſeats, 473, 474. Geographical and geological deſcription of the county, 475—477. Produce, 477. Natural hiſtory, including foſſils, rare plants, &c. 477, 478. Rivers, 479, 480. Navigable canal, 480, 481. Roads, 481, 482. Manufacturers, 482, 483. Antiquities, 483—493. Roman remains, 483. Roman roads and ſtations, 483—486. Church architecture, 486, 487. Ancient ſtained glaſs, 488, 489. Rood lofts, &c. 489. Fonts, *ibid.* Stone ſtalls and piſcinæ, 489, 490. Ancient tombs, 490, 491. Monaſtic remains, 491, 492. Caſtles and ſites of caſtles, ancient manſion houſes, camps, and earth works, 492, 493. Parochial topography, alphabetically arranged, 404—682.
*Buckhurſt* in Binfield, manor of, 241.
*Buckland* in Berkſhire, pariſh of, 251—253.
*Buckland* in Buckinghamſhire, pariſh of, 530.
*Bucklebury*, pariſh of, 253, 254.
*Buckler, Benjamin*, his monument at Cumner, 271.
*Budna* in Northill, manor of, 119.
*Bull* baited for the poor at Wokingham, 443.
*Buller, John*, his tomb at Windſor, 428.
*Bullock family*, 235.
*Bullocks* in Cookham, manor of, 267.
——— *hatch* at Bray, 249.
*Bulſtrode family*, 468. Their tombs at Beaconsfield, 508. At Hedgerley, 577. At Upton, 653.
——— the ſeat of the Duke of Portland, 653, 654.
*Bulmarſh* in Sunning, manor of, 381.
*Bunyan, John*, a native of Elſtow, 82. Paſtor of the meeting at Bedford, 53.
*Burcot*, a hamlet of Wing, 667.
*Burfield*, or *Burghfield*, pariſh of, 254, 255.

*Burford*,

*Burford* and *Culham* bridges at Abingdon, account of, 221, 222.
*Burgoyne*, baronet, of Sutton, 15. 139. Monuments of the family, 139.
*Burke, Edmund*, his ſeat at Gregories, 508. His monument at Beaconsfield, *ibid.*
*Burnham*, pariſh of, 530—532.
——— *abbey*, 530, 531.
*Burſton houſe*, in Aſton Abbots, formerly a ſeat of the Lees, 500.
*Bury manor*, in Marſh Gibwen, 603.
*Buſby family*, 468. Their tombs at Addington, 495.
*Buſcot*, pariſh of, 255, 256.
——— park, the ſeat of E. L. Loveden eſq. 255.
*Buſhmead*, or *Biſmede priory*, 80.
*Bute*, Marquis of, his ſeat at Luton-Hoo, 108, 109.
*Butler, Charles*, a native of High Wycombe, 678.
——— *Joſeph*, biſhop of Durham, a native of Wantage, 410.
——— Sir *Oſwald*, does penance for living with his wife, 122.
——— Capt. *Thomas*, monument of at Inkpen, 304.
*Butlers* in Pitſton, manor of, 620.
*Butlin, Thomas*, eſq. his ſeat at Turville, 651.
*Byng family*, their ſeat at Southill, 133. *Colombarium* in the church, 134.
*Byſhop's* in Puſey, manor of, 326.

C.

*Caddington*, pariſh of, 62, 63. the church, 29.
*Cadmore end* in Fingeſt, manor of, 563.
*Cadogan, William Bromley*, his monument, 345.
*Cainhoe caſtle*, 69.
*Calcot houſe*, the ſeat of John Blagrave eſq. 389.
*Caldecot, Upper* and *Lower*, in Northill, manors of, 119.
——— in Newport Pagnell, a hamlet and manor, 613.
*Caldwell priory*, near Bedford, 47.
*Calverton*, pariſh of, 533.
*Camelton*, cum Shefford, manor of, 63.
*Campion, M. A.* her monument at Latimers, 539.
*Camps* and *Earth Works*, in Bedfordſhire, 35. In Berkſhire, 213—215. In Buckinghamſhire, 492, 493.
*Campton*, or *Camelton*, pariſh of, 63, 64.
*Canals*, navigable, in Berkſhire, 196, 197. In Buckinghamſhire, 480, 481.
*Canon hill*, at Bray, the ſeat of J. Law eſq. 249.
*Canon Aſhby Priory*, cartulary of at Hinwick houſe, 125.
*Cantilupe family*, 11.
*Cardington*, pariſh of, 64—66.
——— Cotton end, manor of, 65.
*Carleton, Guy*, his monument at Waddeſdon, 656.
——— ——— biſhop of Chicheſter, 688.
*Carlton*, pariſh of, 66.
*Carnarvon*, Earls of, 666.
——— *Robert*, Earl of, ſlain at Newbury, 164. 317.
*Carrington*, Lord, his ſeat at High Wycombe, 676.
*Carſwell*, in Buckland, manor of, 252.
*Carte, Thomas*, author of the Hiſtory of England, buried at Yattendon, 446.
*Carter family*, monument of at Chilton, 541.
*Carteret*, Lord, his ſeat at Hawnes, 93.
*Caſtell, Edmund*, author of the Polyglot Bible, his monument at Higham Gobion, of which pariſh he was rector, 94.
*Caſtillon, John Baptiſt*, and dame *Elizabeth*, monument of, 372.
*Caſtle manor*, in Lavendon, 593.
*Caſtle mill*, near Bedford, 89.
*Caſtles* and ſites of caſtles in Bedfordſhire, 34, 35. In Berkſhire, 212. In Buckinghamſhire, 492.
*Caſtlethorp*, pariſh of, 533.
*Cater family*, 13.
*Cateſby family*, tombs of, at Hardmead, 573.
*Catharine of Arragon*, Queen, at Ampthill, 37. At Eaſthampſted, 285. At Newbury, 320. At Buckingham, 528. Commiſſion for her divorce held at Dunſtaple, 75.
*Catmere*, pariſh of, 256.
*Cavendiſh*, Lord *George*, his ſeat at Latimers, 539.
*Caversfield*, pariſh of, 533, 534. Seat of Mr. Bullock, 534.
*Cawdwell* in Edleſborough, manor of, 554.
*Chackmore*, a hamlet of Radcliffe, 625.
*Chaddleworth*, pariſh of, 256—258. Singular cuſtom of the manor, 257.
*Chalfont St. Giles*, pariſh of, 534, 535.
——— *St. Peter*, pariſh of, 535, 536.
*Chalgrave*, pariſh of, 66, 67.
*Chalk hills*, in Bedfordſhire, 18. In Berkſhire, 188, 189. In Buckinghamſhire, 475.
*Challow, Eaſt*, a hamlet of Letcombe-Regis, 313.
——— *Weſt*, a hamlet and manor in Letcombe Regis. *ibid.*
——— *houſe*, *ibid.*
*Chaloner family*, 544.
——— *Edward*, his monument at Eaſt Claydon, *ibid.*
*Chalveſtone*, a hamlet of Roxton, 129.
*Chalvey*, a hamlet of Upton, 654.
*Chamberhouſe* in Thatcham, manor of, 388.
*Chandler*, biſhop of Durham, buried at Farnham-Royal, 561.
——— *Samuel*, a native of Hungerford, 298.

*Chapel*,

*Chapel of St. George*, aa Windſor, 206. 423—428.
——— *Row*, a hamlet of Bucklebury, 254.
*Charles the Firſt* at Buckingham, 524. At Childrey, 259. At Faringdon, 277. At Hambleden, 568. At Hungerford, 295. At Lambourn, 307. At Latimers, 528. Paſſes through Great Marlow a priſoner, 601. At Reading, 332. At Shefford, 360. At Stoke Poges, 637. At Wantage, 408. Keeps his laſt Chriſtmas at Windſor, 419. Sleeps at Woburn, 152.
——— *the Second*, at Reading, 333. Repairs Windſor caſtle, 420.
*Charlton* in Wantage, manor of, 408.
*Charnam ſtreet*, a tithing of Hungerford, 295.
*Charndon*, a hamlet of Twyford, 652.
*Charney Baſſet*, a hamlet of Longworth, 314. 685.
*Charnock* of Hulcote, baronet. 12. 100. Monuments of the family, 100.
*Chartridge*, a hamlet of Cheſham, 538.
*Chaſe family*, tombs of at Great Marlow, 600. At Little Marlow, 602.
—— *Thomas*, murdered at Wooburn, 670.
*Chaucer, Geoffrey*, tradition of his reſidence at Donnington caſtle, 356.
*Chauridge* in Winkfield manor of, 437.
*Chawley*, a tithing of Cumner, 271.
*Checkers*, manor of, the ſeat of R. Greenhill, eſq. 555.
*Cheddington*, pariſh of, 536.
*Chelrey family*, 259.
——— manor, *ibid.*
*Chelmſcote*, a hamlet of Soulbury, 632.
*Chelſum*, Dr. curate of Lathbury, 592.
*Cheney*, or *Cheyne family*, 468. Their tombs at Cheſham Bois, 539. At Drayton Beauchamp, 491. 552. At Iſenhamſted Cheneys, 584. At Toddington, 33. 144.
*Cheneys Iſenhamſted*, an ancient ſeat of the earls of Bedford, 584.
*Cherbury Caſtle*, an ancient entrenchment, 214.
*Cherry Francis*, his tomb at Shotteſbroke, 364.
*Cherſley*, pariſh of, 536.
*Cheſham*, town and pariſh of, 536—539. Market, manufactures, and population, 436. Manors, 537. Pariſh church, &c. 537. Hamlet of Latimers, 508. 539.
*Cheſham Great*, ———, *Bury*, ———, *Higham*, ———, *Leiceſter*, ———, *Woburn*, } Manors of, 537.
*Cheſham Bois*, pariſh of, 539.
*Cheſter*, of Chichley, baronet, 540, 541.
——— *Sir Henry*, his monument at Tilſworth, 141.
*Cheſterfield*, a Roman ſtation, 27. 35.
*Chetwode*, pariſh of, 539, 540.
——— *Priory*, 539.
*Chetwode family*, 11. 467. 473. Their tombs at Tempsford, 140.
*Cheveley*, pariſh of, 258, 259.
*Chew family*, tombs of, at Dunſtaple, 75.
*Chichley*, pariſh of, 540, 541.
*Chickſand Priory*, ancient hiſtory of, 67. Seat of Sir George Oſborn, 68.
*Child, William*, his tomb at Windſor, 7.
——— *family*, tombs of, at Pudington, 125.
*Children two*, grown together, 409.
*Childrey*, pariſh of, 259—261.
*Chillington*, pariſh of, 68, 69.
*Chilſwell farm*, in Cumner, 271.
*Chilton*, in the hundred of Compton, pariſh of, 261, 262.
——— near Hungerford, pariſh of, 261.
——— in Buckinghamſhire, pariſh of, 541.
*Chiſhull Edmund*, a native of Eyworth, 83.
*Choleſbury*, pariſh of, 541, 542.
*Cholſey*, pariſh of, 262, 263.
*Chuffs*, at Holyport, in Bray, ſeat of the family of Hayes, 248.
*Churchwardens accounts*, at St. Lawrence, Reading, 343.
*Cibber, Colley*, anecdote of, 664.
*Cippenham*, in Burnham, a Royal Palace, 531. Manor of, 531, 532. 687.
*Circourt Upper and Lower*, in Denchworth, manor of, 272.
*Clapcote*, near Wallingford, anciently a ſeat of the family of Molins, 402.
*Clapham*, pariſh of, 69.
*Clapton*, in Kentbury, 306.
*Clarendon*, Lord Chancellor, reſides at Swallowfield, 384.
*Clarke*, family of, 180. 186. 235.
——— *Sir Edward*, his monument at Ardington, 235.
*Claydon Bottle*, a hamlet of Eaſt Claydon, 542. 687.
——— *Eaſt*, pariſh of, 542, 543.
——— *Middle*, pariſh of, 543.
——— ſeat of lady Fermanagh, *ib.*
——— *Steeple*, pariſh of, 544.
*Clayton*, of Harleyford, baronet, 472.
——— *family*, monuments of, at Chalfont St. Giles, 535. At Great Marlow, 600.
——— *Sir William*, his ſeat at Harleyford, 599.
*Clement Thomas*, his tomb at Great Miſſenden, 608.
*Clerke*, of Hitcham and Shabbington, baronets, 471, 472. Monuments of the family at Hitcham, 579. At Shabbington, 628.
*Clewer*, pariſh of, 263.
*Cliefden houſe*, 647.
*Clifford family*, buried at Buckingham, 528.
*Clifton*, in Bedfordſhire, pariſh of, 69.
*Clifton-Reynes*, pariſh of, 544, 545.
*Clinton, Sir Henry*, buried at Windſor, 425.

*Clifton*,

*Clinton*, Lady, monument of at Haverſham, 491. 576.
*Clipperſdown*, a hamlet of Ivinghoe, 588.
*Clophill*, pariſh of, 69, 70.
*Clothing* manufacture formerly flouriſhing in Berkſhire, 198. At Eaſt-Hendred, 291. At Newbury, 319. At Reading, 340.
*Cloyne*, Biſhop of, his remarks on the Roman roads and ſtations in Bedfordſhire, 25—28. In Berkſhire, 200—204. In Buckinghamſhire, 483—486.
*Cobb-hall* in Sharnbrook, 131.
*Cobham family*, 468.
*Cockayne family*, 12, 92. 683. Their tombs at Aſtwich, 41. At Cockayne Hatley, 92.
*Coins*, *Roman*, found in Bedfordſhire, 24. In Berkſhire, 199. In Buckinghamſhire, 483. At Elleſborough, 556.
—— *Saxon*, found at Kentbury, 215.
*Coke*, Lord Chief Juſtice, his ſeat at Stoke Poges, 636. Entertains Queen Elizabeth, *ibid.* His ſtatue by Roſſi, 637.
*Cole*, *William*, rector of Blechley, 513.
—— *Norton* in Eton, manor of, 506.
*Coleſhill*, pariſh of, 264, 265.
——— houſe, ſeat of the Earl of Radnor, 264.
——— a manor and hamlet of Amerſham, 498. The birth place of Waller, *ibid.*
*Cole's Pitts*, ſingular excavations near Little Coxwell, 215.
*Colet family*, 473. 659.
*Coley*, near Reading, manor of, 340, 341.
*College*, Royal military at High Wycombe, 677, 678.
*Colleſdon*, or *Fitz-Jeffreys*, manor of in Roxton, 129.
*Colnbrook*, town of, 591.
*Colne river*, its courſe through Buckinghamſhire, 479.
*Colrugge*, manor of, in Hampſted Norris, 287.
*Colthorp* in Thatcham, manor of, 388.
*Colwick*, *Collick*, or *Collet*, in Waddeſdon, manor of, 656. 688.
*Colworth-houſe* in Sharnbrook, the ſeat of W. L. Antonie eſq. 16. 131.
*Commons* and waſte lands in Bedfordſhire, 17. In Berkſhire, 190. In Buckinghamſhire, 475.
*Compton*, pariſh of, 265.
——— *Eaſt* and *Weſt*, manors of, *ibid.*
——— *Beauchamp*, pariſh of, 265, 266.
*Conger hill* at Toddington, 143.
*Conqueſt family*, 12. 96. Tombs of at Houghton-Conqueſt, 98.
——— Sir *Edmund* entertains James I. 96.
*Conſtables* of Windſor caſtle, 431, 432.
*Conyngham*, Counteſs Dowager of, her ſeat at Hitchenden, 580.
*Cookham*, pariſh of, 266—269. Cuſtoms of the manor, 266.
——— Dean, 267.
*Cople*, pariſh of, 71, 72.
*Copperman*, *Conrad Erneſt*, a dwarf, portrait of, 577.
*Corbet*, Sir *Robert*, tomb of at Marcham, 315.
*Cornwall*, Sir *John*, Lord Fanhope, his military exploits, 37.
*Cothill*, a hamlet of Marcham, 315.
*Cotſlow*, a hamlet of Wing, 667.
*Cotton*, Sir *George*, buried at Nettleden, 621.
——— Sir *John*, his ſeat at Stratton, 57.
*Cottonian Library*, preſerved at Stratton in the civil war, *ibid.*
*Court*, *Robert*, his tomb at Brightwell, 250.
—— *Garden*, ſeat of Richard Davenport eſq. 600.
*Coward*, *William*, his remarkable benefactions out of a ſmall income, 325.
*Cowcye* in Wokingham, manor of, 441.
*Cowper the Poet*, reſides at Olney, 616. At Weſton Underwood, 661.
*Cow-worth*, a hamlet of Windſor, 415.
*Cox*, Biſhop, a native of Whaddon, 663.
*Coxwell*, *Great*, pariſh of, 269, 270. Remarkable barn there, 270.
——— *Little*, a hamlet of Faringdon, 279.
*Cranbourn Lodge*, ſeat of the late Duke of Glouceſter, 437.
*Crane family*, tombs of at Loughton, 597.
*Cranfield*, pariſh of, 72.
*Cranmer family*, tombs of Aſtwood, 502.
*Cranwell*, a manor-farm in Waddeſdon, 656.
*Craſwell*, or *Creſſwells*, in Bray, manor of, 247.
*Craven*, barons and earls of, 181. 286.
——— William, Earl of, celebrated for his activity in aſſiſting to extinguiſh fires, 286.
*Crawley*, *North*, pariſh of, 545, 546.
——— *Great*, manor of, 545.
——— *family*, 17. Their tombs at Luton, 113.
*Creakers* in Great Barford, 41.
*Crendon*, pariſh of, 546, 547.
*Creſſlow*, pariſh of, 547.
*Croft*, baronet, 184.
*Croſton*, a hamlet of Wing, 667.
*Croke family*, monuments of at Chilton, 541. At Elleſborough, 556.
*Crokeham* in Thatcham, manor of, 387, 388.
*Cromarſh fort*, near Wallingford, 393.
*Crompton family*, tombs of at Elſtow, 81.
*Cromwell family*, portrait of at Checkers, 555.
——— *Oliver*, portrait of by Sir Peter Lely at Chickſand, 68.
*Croſs*—at Dunſtaple, 74. At Leighton Buſard, 103. At Abingdon, 227. At Stony Stratford, 644.
—— White-leaf, 626.

*Croſſcot*, a hamlet of Eaſt-Hagbourn, 284.
*Cruſaders*, tombs of, at Pertenhall, 32. 123. At Salford, 32. 129.—At Toddington, 33. 144. At Aldworth, 208, 209. At Burghfield, 210. 255. At Childrey, 209. 260. At Inkpen, 210. 304. At Sparſholt, 209. 370. At Clifton-Reynes, 490. At Aſhendon, 499. At Hitchendon, 580. At Twyford, 652.
*Crutchley Jeremiah*, his ſeat at Sunning-hill, 382.
*Cublington*, pariſh of, 547.
*Cuddington*, pariſh of, 547, 548.
*Culhamford Bridge*, near Abingdon, account of its buildings, 221, 222.
*Culham court*, the ſeat of the Hon. Frederic Weſt, 411.
*Cumner*, pariſh of, 270, 271.
——— *place*, formerly a ſeat of the Abbots of Abingdon, 213. 270, 271.
*Currage*, in Cheveley, 259.
*Curteys, John*, founder of Wimington church, his tomb, 33, 151.
*Curven, Henry*, monument of at Amerſham, 497.
*Curzon family*, 685. Their monuments at Penn, 618, 619.
*Cuſtom*, ſingular of recovering a free bench in the manors of Chaddleworth and Enborne, 257. 274. At Cumner, 271. Of puniſhing incontinency at Faringdon, 278. Of the *Montem* at Eton, 557, 558. Of hunting a ram at Eton, 558.
*Cuthwulf* defeats the Britons, 1.

## D.

*Dagnell* in Edleſborough, manor and hamlet of, 554, 555.
*Dale family*, tombs of at Fyfield, 282.
*Dallowe* in Luton, manor of, 109, 110.
*Dame Ellenſbury*, manor in Houghton Conqueſt, 96, 97.
*Dancaſtle family*, tombs of at Binfield, 241.
*Danes*—fortify Tempsford, 2. Defeated by Edward the Elder, *ibid.* Burn Bedford and Tempsford, *ibid.* Defeated at Englefield, 160. Stationed at Reading, 160. 162. 328. Defeated at Aſhdown, 160. Lay waſte Berkſhire, 163.
*Danes field*, the ſeat of Robert Scott eſq. 605.
*Danvers* in Little Marlow, manor of, 602.
——— Judge, his monument at Thatcham, 386.
*Darcy, Marmaduke*, his tomb at Windſor, 427.
*Darell*, Sir *Marmaduke*, his monument at Fulmer, 564.
*Darrell*, family of, Toweridge, 675.
——— of Weſtwood hay, baronet, 182. 444.
——— monuments of at Kentbury, 306.
*Daſhwood family*, 468. 679.
*Daſhwood family*, monuments of at Weſt Wycombe, 679, 680.
——— *King*, of Halton and Weſt Wycombe, baronet, 472.
*Datchet*, pariſh of, 548.
——— *bridge*, *ibid.*
*Daunce Alice*, her tomb at Blewbury, 244.
*Davenport, Richard*, his ſeat near Great Marlow, 600.
*Davies, David*, rector of Barkham, 238.
*Davis*, Sir *John*, anecdotes of, 323, 324. His monument, 324.
*Day, Thomas*, his epitaph at Wargrave, 411.
*Dayrell family*, 467. 473. 595. 642.
——— tombs of Lillingſtone Dayrell, 595.
——— *Walter*, his monument at Abingdon, 224.
*Dean*, pariſh of, 72, 73.
*De la Beche family*, 178. Their monuments at Aldworth, 208, 209. 232, 233.
——— *Sir Nicholas*, account of, 232.
——— *Margaret Lady*, forcibly carried away from Beaumy's Caſtle, 232. 361, 362.
*De la Beche Caſtle*, 233.
*De la Ford*, in Iver, 587.
*De la Pole*, family of, 179.
*De Liſle*, family of, Barons of Kingſton Liſle, 371.
*Denchworth*, pariſh of, 271, 272.
——— *North*, in Hanney, manor of, 288.
*Denford High and Low*, in Kentbury, manors of, 305, 306.
*Denham*, pariſh of, 548, 549.
*Denham-Court*, ſeat of the Bowyer family, 549.
——— *Place*, ſeat of Benjamin Way eſq. 548, 549.
*Denham*, in Quainton, manor of, 622.
*Denham-Durdant*, manor of, 549.
*Denton family*, 468. Their monuments in Hilleſden-Church, 578, 579.
*Depers*, or *Diaper*, in Binfield, manor of, 240.
*Derham, Dr. William*, rector of Wargrave, 412.
*Devonſhire, Chriſtian* Counteſs of, reſides at Houghton-Park, 96, 97. At Latimers, 538.
*Dickenſon family*, monuments of, at Dunſtaple, 75.
*Didcot*, or *Dudcot*, pariſh of, 272.
*Didworth*, or *Dudworth-Maunſell*, in Clewer, manor of, 263.
*Digby family*, portraits of, at Gayhurſt, 564.
——— *Capt. Francis*, buried at Cheneys, 585.
——— *Sir Kenelm*, born at Gayhurſt, 564.
*Dillingham Francis*, ſaid to be a native of Dean, 73.
*Dilly*, the bookſeller, his monument at Southill, 134.
*Dinton*, pariſh of, 549—551. Remarkable Saxon door-way of the church, 486, 487. 551.
*Diſney*, family tombs of, at Stoke-Hamond, 635.
*Ditton*, a hamlet of Stoke-Poges, 639.
——— *Park*, ſeat of the late Earl Beaulieu, *ibid.*

*Doderſhall*, in Quainton, manor of, 622.
*Dodford*, a hamlet and manor in Stowe, 642.
*Dodwell Henry*, his monument at Shotteſbroke, 364.
*Dolman family*, monuments of, at Shaw, 355.
*Dominis Mark Antonio de*, rector of Weſt-Ilſley, 303, 304.
*Donnington Caſtle*, 355—357. Its foundation, 355. ſaid to have been a ſeat of Chaucer the poet, 356. Suſtains ſeveral ſieges in the civil war, 356, 357.
*Donnington Priory*, 358.
*Dormer family*, 468. Their monuments at Crendon, 546. At Quainton, 623. At Wing, 666. Their ſeat at Ethorp, 655.
*Dorney*, pariſh of, 551, 552. Seat of Sir C. H. Palmer, 551.
*Doughty Thomas*, his tomb at Windſor, 427.
*Dourton*, pariſh of, 552. Seat of Sir John Aubrey, *ib.*
*Down-place*, in Bray, 248.
*Downing Calybute*, rector of Ickford, 583.
*Doyley family*, 473. Monuments of, at Hurley, 300. At Hambleden, 569, 570. At Turville, 651.
——— *John*, his ſeat at Parmoor, 473. 569.
*Drake family*, 468, 496. Their monuments at Amerſham, 497.
*Dramatic repreſentation*, the firſt in this kingdom, ſuppoſed to have been at Dunſtaple, 77, 78.
*Drayton*, in Berkſhire, pariſh of, 272, 273.
*Drayton-Beauchamp*, pariſh of, 552.
*Drayton-Paſſelew*, pariſh of, 553.
*Drope, Francis and John*, natives of Cumner, 271.
*Duckenfield, Sir Nathaniel*, his ſeat at Stanlake, 184. 352.
*Duffield family*, tombs of, at Medmenham, 605.
*Dunch family*, monuments of, at Little Wittenham, 440.
——— *Edmund*, made Baron Burnell, by Cromwell, *ibid.*
*Duncombe family*, monuments of, at Battlefden, 43. At Ivinghoe, 588.
*Dunſtan-houſe*, in Thatcham, now deſtroyed, 386.
*Dunſtaple*, account of the town and pariſh, 73—78. Etymology, 73. Early hiſtory, *ibid.* Priory, 73—75. Royal viſits, 74. Divorce of Catharine of Arragon, 75. Pariſh church, 28, 29. 75. Convent of Black Friars, 76. Manor, *ibid.* Markets and fairs, *ibid.* Government of the town, 77. Charities, *ibid.*
*Dunton*, in Bedfordſhire, pariſh of, 78.
*Dunton*, in Buckinghamſhire, pariſh of, 553.
*Dupré James*, his ſeat at Wilton-park, 508.
*Durell, Dr.* rector of Eaſt-Hampſted, 285.
*Durocobrivæ*, a Roman ſtation, 27.
*Duxford*, a hamlet of Hinton, 294.
*Dyer*, Lord Chief Juſtice, portrait of, 62.
——— *Sir William*, his monument at Colmworth, 70, 71.
*Dyneley Margaret*, her tomb at Stanford-Dingley, 375.
*Dyve family*, tombs of, at Bromham, 62.

## E.

*Eakley*, formerly a pariſh, now united to Stoke-Goldington, 634.
*Eakley-Lane*, manor of, 634. 688.
*Earle T. H.* eſq. his ſeat at Swallowfield, 385.
*Earley-Court*, in Sunning, the ſeat of Sir William Scott, 380.
*Earley-Maiden*, in Sunning, manor of, *ibid.*
*Earley White-Knights*, in Sunning, manor of, *ibid.*
*Eaſington*, a hamlet and manor in Chilton, 341.
*Eaſt Sir William*, his ſeat at Hall-place, 300.
*Eaſt-Court*, in Finchampſted, manor of, 281.
——— in Shalbourn, manor of, 354.
*Eaſt-Hide*, in Luton, the ſeat of Mrs. Betteſworth, 109.
*Eaſt-Oakley*, in Bray, 248.
*Eaſton*, a hamlet of Welford, 413.
*Eaton-Bray*, pariſh of, 78, 79. Architecture of the church, 29.
*Eaton-Haſtings*, pariſh of, 273.
*Eaton-Socon*, pariſh of, 79, 80. Stained glaſs in the church, 30.
*Eddington*, a tithing of Hungerford, 295. The manor, 298.
——— conjectures concerning the battle of, 162.
*Edgcot*, pariſh of, 553.
*Edleſborough*, pariſh of, 553, 554.
*Edmund St.* a native of Abingdon, 226.
*Edward the Confeſſor*, his palace at Old-Windſor, 413. At Brill, 522.
*Edward the Elder*, builds a fortreſs at Bedford, 2. Defeats the Danes at Tempsford, *ibid.* Builds a fortreſs on each ſide the Ouſe at Buckingham, 450. 524. His death at Faringdon, 276.
*Edward* I. king, reſides at Aſheridge, 619. At Iſenhamſted-Cheneys, 584. Reſides at Windſor and holds a great tournament there, 418.
*Edward* II. king, at Reading, 329. His reſidence at Windſor, 418.
*Edward* III. king, at Dunſtaple, 74. Born at Windſor, 418. Entry of his baptiſm on the Clauſe Roll, *ibid.* His magnificent buildings at Windſor, *ibid.* His reſidence at Iſenhamſted-Cheneys, 584.
*Edward* IV. king, at Reading, 330. His tomb at Windſor, 210. 425.
*Edward* VI. King, at Reading, 330.

*Edwards family*, 17. Their monuments at Arlesey, 40. At Henlow, 93.
*Edworth*, parish of, 81.
*Egginton*, a hamlet and manor in Leighton-Busard, 105.
*Egfrid*, king, his death at Abingdon, 219.
*Ekeney*, parish of, 615.
*Ekins Dr.* rector of Quainton, 623.
*Elcot*, a tithing of Kentbury, 306.
*Elderfield Christopher*, his benefaction to Harwell for buying cows for the poor, 290.
*Eleanor Queen*, her corpse rests at Dunstaple, 74.
*Elizabeth Queen*, at Aldermaston, 231. At Asheridge (when princess), 620. At Cheneys, 584. At Dunstaple, 74. At Englefield, 275. At Hampden, 571. At Hitcham, 579. At Newbury, 319. At Princes-Risborough, 627. At Reading, 330. At Shardeloes, 496. At Stoke-Poges, 636. At Whaddon, 662. At Wing (when princess), 665. Keeps the festival of St. George with great solemnity at Windsor, 422.
*Ellesborough*, parish of, 555, 556. 688.
*Elsfow*, parish of, 81, 82. Priory and parish church, 28, 29. 81.
*Elsyng family*, tombs of at East-Garston, 283.
*Elwes John*, of Marcham, 315.
*Elynton and Spencers*, in Cookham, manor of, 267.
*Emberton*, parish of, 556.
*Enborne*, parish of, 273, 274. Singular custom of the manor, 274.
*Endalls*, in Wargrave, manor of, 686.
*Englefield*, parish of, 274—276.
——— *house*, seat of R. Benyon esq. 275.
*Englefield*, of White-Knights, and Englefield, baronet, account of the family, 180. 274. Their monuments at Englefield, 275. At Sunning, 381.
*Englewood*, in Kentbury, 306.
*Entry*, singular in the register at Wantage, 409.
*Escape providential*, 102.
*Essex family*, 179.
——— *Sir Thomas*, his monument at Lambourn, 310.
*Estbury*, in Lambourn, manor of, 308.
*Ethorp*, in Waddesdon, seat of the Earl of Chesterfield, 655, 656.
*Eton*, parish of, 556—560. Account of the college, 556—558. Eminent persons educated at the school, 557. Custom of the *Montem*, 557, 558. Description of the college, 558, 559. The chapel, 559. Library, &c. 560. Manor of Eton, *ibid.*
*Eton*, in Appleton, manor of, 234.
*Eton-bury*, manor of, 40.
*Eton-Stockdales*, manor of, 560.
*Evelyn family*, tombs of, at Burnham, 532.
*Evendons*, manor of, in Wokingham, 441.
*Everington*, in Yattendon, manor of, 446.
*Eversaw*, a hamlet of Biddlesdon, 510.
*Eversholt*, parish of, 82.
*Everton*, parish of, *ibid.*
*Exeter* Duchess of, her tomb at Windsor, 211. 427.
*Expeditation of Dogs*, explained, 363, *note*.
*Expence Martin*, a famous archer, 263.
*Ewden*, in Hambleden, manor of, 568.
*Eyre family*, 467. Tombs of, at Burnham, 532.
——— *Sir James*, late chief justice, buried at Ruscombe, 352.
*Eyston*, family of, 180. 186. 292.
*Eyworth*, parish of, 82, 83.

F.

*Fairfax family*, monuments of, at Hurst, 302.
*Faldo*, family of, 115.
*Faringdon*, account of, 276—279. Market and fairs, 276. The castle, and sieges of the town in the civil war, 277. Manors, 277, 278. Parish church, 279.
*Faringdon Little*, a hamlet of Langford, 311.
*Faringdon-house*, made a royal garrison, 277.
*Farley*, in Luton, manor of, 110.
——— *hospital*, 110, 111.
*Farlow*, or *Fawler*, a hamlet of Sparsholt, 371.
*Farmer family*, tombs of, at Cookham, 267.
*Farnborough*, parish of, 279, 280.
*Farndish*, parish of, 83.
*Farnham-Royal*, parish of, 561.
*Fawley Great*, parish of, 280.
*Fawley*, in Buckinghamshire, parish of, 561, 562.
——— *Court*, seat of Strickland Freeman esq. 562.
*Faxes Court*, in Sulhamsted Abbots, manor of, 378.
*Fearnham*, a hamlet and manor in Shrivenham, 369.
*Feasts of the fraternity of the Holy Cross*, 227, 228.
*Fell Bishop*, born at Longworth, not at Sunningwell, as erroneously stated by some authors, 314. 382.
*Felmersham*, parish of, 83, 84. The church, 29. 84.
*Fenlake Barns*, in Cardington, 16 65.
*Fennels Grove*, in Luton, manor of, 109.
——— ——— in Great-Kimbell, manor of, 588.
*Feny-Stratford*, a hamlet of Bletchley, 513—515. The chapel rebuilt, 513. Various charters for a market now disused, 515. Supposed to have been *Magiovintum*, a Roman station, 485.
*Fenton*, the poet, buried at Easthampsted, 285.
*Fermanagh Lady*, her seat at Middle-Claydon, 543.
*Fern-hill*, in Winkfield, 437. 686.
*Fettiplace family*, 179. 288. Monuments of them at Appleton, 234. At Kingston-Bagpuze, 307. At Marcham, 315. At Little-Shefford, 360.
*Field Richard*, buried at Windsor, 427.

*Filgrave*,

*Filgrave*, parish of, 653.
*Finchampsted*, parish of, 280, 281.
*Fingest*, parish of, 562, 563.
*Finmore William*, his monument at North-Hinksey, 294. Richard, his monument at Reading, 342.
*Firmband*, family of, 11.
*Fisher Sir Michael*, his monument at Clifton, 69.
*Fitz-Hugh*, in Edlesborough, manor of, 554.
*Fitz-Jeffery*, family of, 12.
*Fitzwarren*, family of, 178. Their monuments at Wantage, 210, 211. 409.
*Flackwell-heath*, a hamlet of High-Wycombe, 677.
*Flamwells*, in Houghton Conquest, manor of, 97.
*Flavills*, in Renhold, manor of, 127.
*Fleetwood family*, monuments of, at Chalfont St. Giles, 535.
——— *Bishop*, rector of Wexham, 662.
*Flitton*, parish of, 84—87.
*Flitwick*, parish of, 87, 88.
*Foli-john*, manor and park, 436, 437.
*Fonts*, ancient in Bedfordshire, 31, 32. In Berkshire, 207. In Buckinghamshire, 489.
*Foot Topham*, his monument at Windsor, 435.
*Ford*, a hamlet of Dinton, 550, 551.
*Ford*, Gilbert and Simon, vicars of St. Lawrence, Reading, 343.
*Forster Anthony*, his monument at Cumner, 270, 271.
——— *family*, and their monuments at Aldermaston, 230, 231.
*Fortescue*, of Salden, baronet, 611.
——— *Sir John*, his monument at Muresley, *ibid.*
*Forty Green*, in Penn, 619.
*Fossils* extraneous, in Bedfordshire, 19. In Berkshire, 191, 192. Native and extraneous in Buckinghamshire, 477, 478.
*Foster Dr.* provost of Eton, 685.
*Fowler family*, 467. 687.
——— *Christopher*, vicar of St. Mary's, Reading, 344.
*Fowlers* and *Lambards*, a capital mansion in Buckingham, 528.
*Fowlers*, in Stewkley, manor of, 633.
*Fowlescote*, a hamlet and manor in South-Moreton, 316.
*Fox Francis*, vicar of St. Mary's, Reading, 344.
*Foxcote*, parish of, 563.
*Foxleys*, in Bray, manor of, 247.
*Frank family*, their monuments at Stoke-Hamond, 635.
*Franklin family*, 17. Their tombs at Bolnhurst, 61. At Pavenham, 123.
*Frenlys family*, tombs of, at Water-Stratford, 645.
*Frecheville Lady*, her tomb at Windsor, 427.
*Free-bench*, forfeited by incontinency, singular method of recovering in the manor of Chaddleworth, 257. At Enborne, 274.
*Freeman family*, 468. 562.
*Free-school*, at Childrey, statutes of, 261.
*Frethorne*, in Childrey, manor of, 259, 260.
*Friars Black*, their convent at Dunstaple, 76.
——— *Grey*, their house at Bedford, 48. At Aylesbury, 502. Deed of Surrender, 502, 503, *note*. At Reading, 336, 337.
*Friend Dr. John*, his monument at Hitcham, 579.
*Frilford*, a hamlet and manor in Marcham, 315.
*Frilsham*, parish of, 281.
*Frogmore-house*, near Windsor, 433.
*Fulbrook*, a hamlet of Hogshaw, 581.
*Fullers earth pits*, in Buckinghamshire, 477, 478.
*Fulmere*, parish of, 563, 564.
——— *Place*, formerly a seat of the Darells, 563.
*Fyfield*, parish of, 281, 282.
——— *house*, in Bray, 248.
*Fynderne family*, tombs of, at Childrey, 260.
*Fytton Lawrence*, his tomb at Sunning, 381.

## G.

*Garford*, a hamlet and manor in Marcham, 315. 685.
*Garrard family*, monuments of, at Lambourn, 310.
——— *Sir William*, monument of at Dorney, 551.
*Garrison Parliamentary*, at Abingdon, 221. At Aylesbury, 502. At Borstall, 451. 517. At Newport-Pagnell, 612. At Windsor-Castle, 419.
——— *Royal*, at Abingdon, 220. At Borstall, 451, 452. 517. At Brill, 523. At Faringdon, 277. At Greenland-house, 452. 568. At Hillesdon-house, 578. At Horsendon, 582. At Newport-Pagnell, 451. 612. At Reading, 331. At Wallingford, 397.
*Garston-East*, parish of, 283.
*Garter*, order of the, 421—423.
*Gascoigne family*, monuments of, at Cardington, 65.
*Gastrell family*, tombs of, at East-Garston, 283.
*Gawcot*, a hamlet of Buckingham, 529.
*Gayhurst*, or *Gothurst*, parish of, 564, 565.
——— seat of Miss Wrighte, 474. 492. 564.
*Gays*, the seat of Lord Lindores, 182. 248.
*Geering family*, tombs of, at Denchworth, 272.
*Gentry* of Bedfordshire and their seats, 16. Of Berkshire, 184—186. Of Buckinghamshire, 473. 474.
*Gerbier, Sir Balthazer*, buried at Hampsted-Marshall, 286.
*Gery family*, 13. Tombs of, 135.
*Gifford family*, their monuments in Moulsford chapel, 262, 263.
*Giffords*, in Shenley, manor of, 629.

*Giles Nathaniel*, his tomb at Windſor, 427.
*Gill Alderman*, monument of, at Wyrardiſbury, 682.
*Gilpin family*, tombs of, at Hockliffe, 95.
*Ginge-Eaſt*, in Weſt-Hendred, manor of, 293.
—— *Weſt*, in Lockinge, manor of, 313.
*Girtford*, a hamlet and manor in Sandy, 130.
*Girund family*, 467.
*Glory*, the manor of, in Wooburn, 671.
*Glouceſter*, late Duke of, his ſeat at Cranbourn-Lodge, 437.
*Goal County*, lately built at Bedford, 50, 51. For Berks, in ancient times, at Wallingford and Windſor, 400. 434. Removed to Reading, 339. Site of the old Goal there, *ibid.* New Goal, built in 1793, *ibid.* County Goal for Buckinghamſhire, built at Ayleſbury in the reign of Henry VIII. 504. Ancient County Goal at Buckingham, 526. New Goal, built there in 1748, 525.
*Godwin Thomas*, maſter of Abingdon ſchool, 230. His tomb at Brightwell, 250.
——— *Thomas*, Biſhop of Bath and Wells, his monument at Wokingham, 442.
*Golafre family*, 281, 282.
——— *Sir John*, his monument at Fyfield, 210. 282.
*Goldington*, pariſh of, 88, 89.
*Goldington family*, tombs of, at Litlington, 106.
*Goldington's*, manor of, in Eaton-Socon, 80. In Litlington, 106.
*Goodall Rev. Wm.* his ſeat at Dinton, 550.
*Goodrington John*, his tomb at Appleton, 234.
*Goodwin family*, 669, 670.
*Goofey*, pariſh of, 283.
*Gordon Lady*, her monument at Fyfield, 211, 282.
*Gorefields*, near Stoke-Goldington, manor of, 634.
*Goſtwick*, of Willington, baronet, family of, 12. 150, 151. Their monuments, 151.
*Gothic Architecture*, remains of, in Bedfordſhire, 29, 30. In Berkſhire, 205, 206. In Buckinghamſhire, 487.
*Gott, Sir H. T.* his ſeat at Chalfont-Saint Peter, 535.
*Grafton*, a hamlet of Langford, 311.
*Granborough*, pariſh of, 565.
*Granſones*, manor of, 685.
*Grant, George*, his ſeat at White-Waltham, 406.
*Gravenhurſt, Upper*, pariſh of, 89, 90.
——— *Lower*, pariſh of, 90.
*Gray family*, tombs of, 71.
—— *Thomas*, the poet, buried at Stoke-Poges, 638. Monuments erected to his memory, in Mr. Penn's grounds, *ibid.*
*Great-Hampſted Somerics*, in Luton, manor of, 110.
*Green, Matthew*, his tomb at Windſor, 428.
*Greenham*, a hamlet of Thatcham, 387. Preceptory there, *ibid.*
*Greenhams*, in Maids-Moreton, manor of, 609.
*Greenhill, Robert*, his ſeat at Checkers, 555.
*Greenland*, manor of, in Hambleden, 568.
——— *houſe*, a royal garriſon, *ibid.*
*Greenway*, Sir *Anthony*, tomb of Lekhamſted, 594.
*Gregories*, the ſeat of Edmund Burke, 508.
*Gregory, John*, a native of Amerſham, 498.
*Grendon-Underwood*, pariſh of, 565, 566.
*Grenville family*, 467, 473. Their ſeat and monuments at Wotton-Underwood, 673.
*Grenville's manor* in Haddenham, 567.
*Grey family*, (Lords Ruthin and Earls of Kent) 11. 84, 85. Their portraits, 85. Thir monuments in Flitton church, 86.
—— *Arthur*, Lord, his ſeat at Whaddon, 662. His monument in the church, 663.
—— *Richard*, Lord, his monument at Blechley, 559.
—— *Zachary*, rector of Houghton Conqueſt, his monument, 99.
*Grey-Friars* at Bedford, 48. At Ayleſbury, 502. at Reading, 336, 337.
*Grey-Weathers*, what, 192.
*Grieſley*, or *Greaſely*, liberty and manor of in Sulhamſted-Abbots, 377, 378.
*Grimeſdike* in Buckinghamſhire, 493.
*Griſt* in Iver, 587.
*Grocyn, W.* Rector of Newton-Longueville, 612.
*Grove*, pariſh of, 566.
—— a hamlet of Wantage, 408.
—— a manor in Cheſham, 537.
—— a manor in Elleſborough, 555.
*Grove-bury* in Leighton-Buſard, manor of, 104.
*Grubb family*, 468.
—— *John*, his ſeat at Horſendon, 582.
*Guiſe*, family of, 40, 41.
*Gyſford, Reger*, tomb of at Middle-Claydon, 543.

## H.

*Hacket*, family of, 545.
*Hackney-coaches*, when firſt uſed, 42.
*Haddenham*, pariſh of, 566, 567.
*Haddon, Dorothy*, monument of, 595.
*Hadley*, manor of, 685.
*Hagbourn, Eaſt*, pariſh of, 284, 285.
——— *Weſt*, a hamlet and manor in Eaſt-Hagbourn, 284.
*Haines-hill*, the ſeat of the late Mrs. Colleton, 301.
*Hale family*, tombs of at Windſor, 435.
*Hale*, in Wendover, manor of, 659.
*Hales, John*, his tomb at Eton, 559.
*Hall-place*, the ſeat of Sir William Eaſt, 300.
*Hallowick*, a hamlet of Medmenham, 605.
*Halton*, pariſh of, 567. Seat of Sir John Daſhwood-King, *ibid.*
*Ham* in Waddeſdon, manor of, 655.

*Ham*

*Ham-house* in Wantage, 408.
*Hambleden*, parish of, 568—570.
*Hamilton*, *T. A.* epitaph of, at Newport-Pagnell, 613.
*Hammond*, Dr. imprisoned at Clapham, 69.
*Hamond*, of Holly-Grove, baronet, 183.
*Hampden family*, 467. 570. Tombs of at Hampden, 571. At Hartwell, 575.
——— *John*, attacks the garrison at Brill, 451. 513. Buried at Hampden, 571.
*Hampden Great*, parish of, 570, 571.
——— *Little*, parish of, 571.
*Hampsted*, *East*, parish of, 285. The Park, a royal residence, *ibid.*
——— *Marshall*, parish of, 285, 286. Seat of the Earl of Craven destroyed by fire, 286.
——— *Norris*, parish of, 287, 288.
*Hanger family*, tombs of, 249.
*Hanmer* of Simpson, baronet, 472. 630.
——— monuments of the family, *ibid.*
——— *Edward*, his seat at Stockgrove, 632.
*Hannes*, Sir *Edward*, his monument at Shillingford, 361.
*Hanney*, parish of, 288, 289.
——— *East*, a hamlet of West, or Church-Hanney, 288.
*Hanslape*, parish of, 571—573. Fall of the spire, 572.
——— *Park*, the seat of Edward Watts esq. 572.
*Hansted* in Adstock, manor of, 495.
*Hardmead*, parish of, 573.
*Hardwell-castle*, an ancient entrenchment, 214.
*Hardwick*, parish of, 573, 574.
*Hardwyck*, a hamlet of Kempston, 101.
*Hare*, Bishop, buried at Chalfont-St. Giles, 534.
*Hare-hatch*, in Wargrave, 412.
*Harleyford*, seat of Sir William Clayton, 599.
*Harlington*, parish of, 90, 91.
*Harold*, town and parish of, 91, 92. Priory, 91.
*Harper*, Sir *William*, his monument, 52. His benefactions to the town of Bedford, 53—55. Vast increase of the funds arising from his charities, 54.
*Harrington*, Sir *John*, his seat at Old-Windsor, 184. 414.
*Harrison family*, monuments of at Hurst, 301, 302.
*Hart*, *Walter*, his monument at Abingdon, 226.
*Hartley*, *family*, 179. 253. Their tombs at Bucklebury, 254.
——— *Court*, in Shinfield, manor of, 362.
*Hartley-Dummer*, in Shinfield, manor of, 361.
*Hartridge*, in Ashampsted, manor of, 236.
*Hartsholm*, in Northill, manor of, 119.
*Hartwell*, parish of, 574, 575.
——— *house*, seat of Sir George Lee, 574.
*Hartwell*, *Abraham*, rector of Toddington, 145.
*Harvey family*, 17. Their seat at Ickwell, 119. Monuments in Northill church, 120.
——— *David*, his monument at Langley, 590.
——— Sir *Robert-Bateson*, his seat at Langley-Park, *ibid.*
*Harwell*, parish of, 290.
*Harwood*, *Great*, parish of, 575.
——— *Little*, parish of, 575, 576.
*Hascard*, Dr. his monument at Stoke-Poges, 638.
*Hassells* the, seat of Fr. Pym esq. 130.
*Haselden family*, 12.
*Hastings*, chapel at Windsor, 427.
——— *William*, Lord, buried at Windsor, *ibid.*
——— *family*, buried at Stoke-Poges, 638.
*Hastingsbury* in Kempston, manor of, 101.
*Hatch*, in Northill, manor of, 119.
*Hatford*, parish of, 290, 291.
*Hatley-Port*, or *Cockayne*, parish of, 92. 683.
*Haversham*, parish of, 576.
*Hawes family*, tombs of at Purley, 326.
*Hawkins*, Mrs. her monument at Abingdon, 225.
*Hawnes*, or *Haynes*, parish of, 92, 93.
——— seat of Lord Carteret, 93.
*Hawridge*, parish of, 576, 577.
*Hawteridge*, a hamlet of Bucklebury, 254.
*Hawtrey family*, at Checkers, 555. Tombs of at Burnham, 532.
*Hayes family*, tombs of at Clewer, 263.
*Hazelden family*, tombs of at Goldington, 88.
*Head family*, 179. 287. Their tombs at West-Ilsley, 303.
*Hearne*, *Thomas*, born at White-Waltham, 407.
*Heath* and *Reach*, a hamlet of Leighton-Buzard, 105.
*Heathley-hall* in Warfield, 410.
*Heberden*, Dr. his monument at Windsor, 435.
*Hedgerley*, parish of, 577.
——— *Bulstrode*, manor of, *ibid.*
——— *Dean* in Farnham Royal, 561.
*Hedsor*, parish of, 577, 578.
——— *Lodge*, seat of Lord Boston, 577.
*Hellows* in North-Crawley, manor of, 545.
*Helpsthorp*, a hamlet of Drayton-Beauchamp, 552.
*Hen*, Lord Chief Baron, buried at Hambleden, 570.
*Hendens*, manor of, in Bray, 247, 248.
*Hendred*, *East*, parish of, 291, 292.
——— *West*, parish of, 293.
*Henlow*, parish of, 93, 94.
——— *Lanthony*, manor of, 93.
——— *Warden*, manor of, *ibid.*
*Henry* I. King, educated at Abingdon, 220. Resides at Dunstaple, 73. Removes his court from Old Windsor to New Windsor, 414, 415. Married at Windsor, 416. Buried at Reading-abbey, of which he was the founder, 328.
—— II. King, at Brill, 522. At Reading, 329. At Windsor, 416. Holds a general council at Wallingford, 394.

*Henry*

*Henry* III. King, at Abingdon, 220. Beſieges Bedford caſtle, 45. At Brill, 522. At Cippenham, 531. At Dunſtaple, 74. At Faringdon, 277. At Reading, 329.
—— VI. King, at Dunſtaple, 74. Founder of Eton College, 556. His ſtatue there, 559. Place of his ſepulture at Windſor, 425.
—— VIII. King, at Reading, 330. Buried at Windſor, 425. His monument deſtroyed, *ibid.*
*Herclond, Richard de,* his tomb at Wolhampton, 208. 444.
*Hermitage* at St. Leonard's-hill, 684.
——— in Hampſted-Norris, 287.
*Herne,* Sir *William,* his villa at Maidenhead, 248.
*Herſchel,* Dr. his reſidence at Slough, 654.
*Hervey family,* 12.
——— Sir *Gerrard,* his monument at Cardington, 65.
*Heyborne-fields,* in Lekhamſted, manor of, 594.
*Heylin, Peter,* reſides at Lacies-court, 224.
*Heywood* in White-Waltham, manor of, 405.
*Hickman,* Biſhop, rector of Taplow, 647.
*Higham-Gobion,* pariſh of, 94.
*Hilderſley, Mark,* rector of Holwell, 95.
*Hill family,* monuments of at Denham, 549.
—— *Thomas,* his tomb at Flitton, 86.
*Hill-end,* a tithing of Cumner, 271.
*Hill-houſe* in White-Waltham, 405.
*Hillerſdon family,* tombs of at Elſtow, 81. At Stoke-Hamond, 635.
*Hilleſdon,* pariſh of, 578, 579. The church, 487, 488. 579.
*Hilſey family,* tomb of at Eaſt-Ilſley, 303.
*Hinkſey, North,* pariſh of, 293, 294.
——— *South,* pariſh of, 294.
*Hinton,* pariſh of, 294.
——— *Liberty,* in Hurſt, 301.
*Hinwick-hall* in Pudington, formerly a ſeat of the Liveſays, 125.
——— *houſe,* the ſeat of R. Orlebar eſq. *ibid.*
*Hippeſley,* Sir *J. Coxe,* his ſeat at Warfield, 184. 410.
——— Rev. *John,* ſupervisor of the hoſpital at Lambourn, 309.
——— *family,* tombs of at Lambourn, 309.
*Hitcham,* pariſh of, 579.
*Hitchendon,* pariſh of, 580, 581. Seat of the Counteſs Dowager of Conyngham, 580.
*Hoare, H. H.* his ſeat at Wavendon, 658.
*Hobart,* Sir *Miles,* his monument at Great Marlow, 600.
*Hoby family,* their monuments at Biſham, 243.
*Hoeſelle* in Stratfield-Mortimer, manor of, 375.
*Hoekliffe,* pariſh of, 94, 95.
*Hodcot* in Weſt-Ilſley, a manor and ſeat of the late Mr. Head, 303.
*Hodgſon, Robert,* his monument at Tingrith, 142.
*Hoe* in Wotton, manor of, 155.
*Hoggeſton,* pariſh of, 581.
*Hogſhaw,* pariſh of, 581, 582.
*Holland* of Wittenham, baronet, 184.
*Hollingdon,* a hamlet of Soulbury, 632.
*Holly-grove* in Old-Windſor, ſeat of Mr. Mackay, 415.
*Holme* cum Langford, manor of, 57.
——— *Park,* the ſeat of R. Palmer Eſq. 184, 379.
*Holmer* in Little Miſſenden, manor of, 608.
*Holt,* Sir *Thomas,* a native of Reading, 345.
*Holwell,* pariſh of, 95.
*Holy-Croſs,* fraternity of, at Abingdon, 226—228.
*Holyman, James,* a native of Cuddington, 547.
*Holyport,* a hamlet of Bray, 248.
*Home,* Sir *Patrick,* his monument at Cockayne-Hatley, 92.
*Honeywood, Robert,* his monument at Windſor, 427.
*Hoo family,* 11. 108.
*Hooke family,* tombs of at Sunning, 381.
——— *Nathaniel,* his monument at Hedſor, 578.
*Hooker,* rector of Drayton-Beauchamp, 552.
*Hopkins, Robert,* his ſeat at Tidmarſh, 388.
——— *Northey,* Major-general, his ſeat at Oving, 617.
*Hopſon family,* tombs of, at Beenham, 240.
*Horn, ancient,* at Hungerford, 296. At Puſey, 326. At Borſtall, 517.
*Horſendon,* pariſh of, 582.
*Horton,* pariſh of, 582.
——— in Edleſborough, hamlet and manor, 554, 555.
*Horton-hall,* in Edleſborough and Slapton, manor of, 631.
*Hoſpitals,* ancient, at Bedford, 48, 49. At Dunſtaple, 76. At Hockliffe, 95. At Farley, near Luton, 110, 111. At Toddington, 145, 146. At Abingdon, 228, 229. At Hungerford, 298. At Lambourn, 309, 310. At Newbury, 321. At Reading, 348, 349. At Donnington, 358, 359. At Luckley-green in Wokingham, 443. At Ayleſbury, 506. 686, 687. Intended at Bradenham, 518. At Newport-Pagnell, 614. At Stoke-Pages, 638, 639. At High-Wycombe, 678.
*Houghton-Bury,* ſeat of the Conqueſts, 96.
——— *Conqueſt,* pariſh of, 95—99.
——— *Franchiſe,* parſonage of, 99.
——— *Gildables,* parſonage of, *ibid.*
——— *How-end,* manor of, 97.
——— *Park,* ſeat of the Earls of Ayleſbury, 14. 96, 97.
——— *Regis,* pariſh of, 99, 100.



*Houſe*

*Houſe of Commons*, curious picture of, 549.
*Howard*, Sir *John*, reſides at Cardington, 65. Tablet to his memory, *ibid.*
——— Sir *Robert*, impriſoned in the Fleet for Adultery, 637.
*Howberry*, ancient ſeat of the Bechers, now of Mr. Polhill, 127.
*Howcots* in Cople, manor of, 71.
*Howe* in Meppeſhall, manor of, 683.
*Hudden*, or *Hidden*, in Hungerford, manor of, 298.
*Hudnall* in Edleſborough, hamlet and manor of, 554, 555.
*Hulcot* in Buckinghamſhire, pariſh of, 582, 583.
*Hulcote* in Bedfordſhire, pariſh of, 100.
*Hulcote family*, monument of at Buckland, 253.
——— *William*, a ſingular character, 252.
*Humberſhoe*, a hamlet and manor in Caddington and Studham, 63. 137.
*Hundreds*, ancient and modern in Bedfordſhire, 3. In Berkſhire, 165—167. In Buckinghamſhire, 452.
*Hundridge*, a hamlet of Cheſham, 538.
*Hungerford*, town and pariſh of, 295. 298. Market, &c. 295. Manors, 295—298. Pariſh church and charities, 298.
——— *Little*, in Hampſted-Norris, 287.
——— *Park*, the ſeat of John Willes eſq. 296.
——— *family*, 180. 296, 297. Their monuments at Hungerford, 298. At Reading, 342.
*Hunt*, *Roger*, his tomb at Roxton, 129.
*Huntercombe* in Burnham, manor of, 531. 687.
*Huntſmore* in Iver and Langley, 587. 591.
*Hurely*, pariſh of, 299, 300. Priory, 211, 212. 299, 300.
*Hurſt*, pariſh of, 300—302.
——— houſe, ſeat of Mrs. Wowen, 301.
*Huſhorn-Crawley*, pariſh of, 100, 101.
*Huſes* in South-Moreton, manor of, 316.
*Hyde family*, 272. Their monuments at Hurſt, 302. At Denchworth, 272. At Purley, 326. At Sparſholt, 370. At Sutton-Courtenay, 383.
*Hynde family*, tombs of at Hedſor, 578.
*Hynden* in Bray, manor of, 247.
*Hyndens* in Bray, and Cookham, manor of, 267.

I.

*Ickford* pariſh of, 583.
*Ickwell* in Northill, manor of, 119.
——— *Bury*, ſeat of the Harvey family, *ibid.*
*Idſtone* in Aſhbury, hamlet and manor, 236.
*Ikenild-ſtreet*, its courſe through Bedfordſhire, 25. Berkſhire, 202. Buckinghamſhire, 483, 484.
*Ilmer*, pariſh of, 583.
*Iſley-Eaſt*, town and pariſh, 303.
——— *Weſt*, pariſh of, 303, 304.
*Incumbency*, long, inſtances of, 66. 406.
*Ingelo*, *Nathaniel*, his tomb at Eton, 559.
*Ingelton family*, 467. Their tombs at Thornton, 491. 649.
*Inglis* of Milton-Bryant, baronet, 15. 118.
*Ingoldſby family*, remarkable hiſtory of, 527, 528. Buried at Buckingham, 528.
*Inkpen*, pariſh of, 304.
*Inn*, ancient, at Bedford, 49. At Fenny-Stratford, 515.
*Inſcriptions*, ancient, at Sunninghill, 204. 382. At North-Crawley, 545.
*Inſurrection* at Abingdon, 220.
*Ion-houſe* in Gravenhurſt, 89, 90.
*Irby*, Hon. Mr. his ſeat at Brightwell court, 532.
*Iſabel*, Queen, at Sunning, 379.
*Iſbury*, *John*, his tomb at Lambourn, 211. 309.
*Iſenhampſted-Cheneys*, pariſh of, 584, 585.
*Ivel river*, its courſe through Bedfordſhire, 21.
*Iver*, pariſh of, 585—587.
*Ives* in Bray and Cookham, manor of, 248.
——— *Place*, the ſeat of Thomas Wyatt, *ibid.*
*Ivinghoe*, pariſh of, 587, 588.

J.

*James*, family of, 378. Their tombs at Avington, 238.
——— Sir *Walter J.* his ſeat at Langley, 287.
*James* I. King, at Hawnes, 92. At Houghton-Conqueſt, 96, At Luton, 110. At Toddington, 143. At Reading, 330. At Aylesbury, 505.
——— II. King, receives the Pope's nuncio at Windſor, 420.
*Jeffries*, Lord Chancellor, at Bulſtrode, 653, 654.
*Jemmet family*, their monnments at Kentbury, 306.
*Jennings family*, 12.
*John*, King, at Dunſtaple, 74. At Reading, 329. Meets the Barons at Wallingford, 394. Reſides at Windſor, 417.
*Jolliffe*, Mrs. her monument at Harold, 91.
*Jordan*, *Agnes*, her tomb at Denham, 491. 549.
*Junius*, *Francis*, his tomb at Windſor, 426.
*Juſtice*, *Fr.* his ſeat at Sutton-Courtenay, 185. 384.

K.

*Kates-Gore* in Eaſt-Iſley, 303.
*Keate family*, tombs of at Eaſt-Hagbourn, 284. At Lockinge, 313.

*Kempſton*, pariſh of, 101, 102.
——— *Fiſhers*, } Manors of, 101, 102.
——— *Greys*, } Manors of, 101, 102.
——— *Hardwyck*, } Manors of, 101, 102.
——— *St. John*, } Manors of, 101, 102.
*Kendrick*, of Whitley, baronet, 182. 341.
——— *John*, his benefactions to Newbury, 322. To Reading, 344. 350.
——— *William*, his monument at Reading, 344.
*Kennet River*, its courſe through Berkſhire, 195. Its fiſh, *ibid.*
*Kennington*, a hamlet of Sunningwell, 383.
*Kentbury*, pariſh of, 304—306.
*Keppel*, Biſhop of Exeter, his tomb at Windſor, 428.
*Keyſoe*, pariſh of, 102.
*Kidwelly family*, tombs of, at Little Wittenham, 440.
*Kiln-green*, in Wargrave, 412.
*Kimbell Great*, pariſh of, 588, 589.
——— *Little*, pariſh of, 589.
*Kimbell-wick*, a hamlet of Great-Kimbell, 588.
*King family*, tombs of, at Wormenhall, 673.
—— Biſhop of Chicheſter, and Biſhop of London, natives of Wormenhall, *ibid.*
—— *John*, monument of, at Pertenhall, 123. At Iver, 587.
—— Sir *John Daſhwood*, his ſeats at Halton and Weſt-Wycombe, 567, and 679.
—— *Oliver*, Biſhop of Bath and Wells, his chapel at Windſor, 425, 426.
*King-Game*, or *King-Play*, explained, 344.
*Kingſey*, pariſh of, 589, 590.
*Kingſhoe*, or *Kinſes*, in Everſholt, manor of, 82.
*Kingſton-Bagpuze*, pariſh of, 306, 307.
*Kingſton-Liſle*, a hamlet of Sparſholt, 370, 371.
*Kingſton-Winſlow*, a hamlet and manor, in Aſhbury, 236.
*Kingſwood*, a hamlet of Ludgerſhall, 598.
*Knapp family*, monuments of, at Little-Linford, 597.
*Knight family*, tombs of, at Rufcomb, 352.
*Knight-Ealington*, or *Ellington*, in Cookham, manor of, 267.
*Knighton*, a hamlet of Compton-Beauchamp, 266.
*Knolles family*, monument of, at Stanford, 374.
*Knollys, Francis*, his ſeat at Fern-hill, 437.
*Knotting*, pariſh of, 102, 103.
*Knotty-Green*, in Penn, 619.
*Knowles*, of Lovel-Hill, baronet, 183.

L.

*Labour manual*, extraordinary feat of, 262.
*Lace*, manufacture of, 23, 24. 482, 483. 616.
*Lacie's Court*, near Abingdon, 224.
*Lady-Place*, at Hurley, the ſeat of G. Kempenfelt eſq. 299, 300.
*Lambert farm*, in Hedſor, 577, 578.
*Lambourn*, town and pariſh of, 307—310.
——— *Chipping*, manor of, 307.
——— *Upper*, hamlet and manor, 307, 308. 310.
*Lambourn river*, its courſe, 196. Erroneous notion reſpecting it, *ibid.*
*Lamp bronze*, found at St. Leonard's-hill, 215.
*Lane family*, tombs of, at Upton, 653.
*Laneſley John*, his extraordinary feat of manual labour, 262.
*Langford*, in Bedfordſhire, pariſh of, 103.
——— in Berkſhire, pariſh of, 310, 311.
*Langford*, family of, 178. 233.
*Langley*, pariſh of, 590, 591.
——— a manor in Hampſted-Norris, and ſeat of Sir W. J. James, 287.
——— *Park*, ſeat of Sir R. B. Harvey, 590.
*Langley*, of Higham-Gobion, baronet, 15. 94.
*Langleys*, in Luton, manor of, 109.
*Langport*, a hamlet of Stowe, 642.
*Langſton family*, tombs of, at Caversfield, 534. At Little-Harwood, 576.
——— Rev. Mr. his ſeat at Little-Harwood, 575.
*Langtons*, in Sharnbrook, manor of, 131.
*Lathbury*, pariſh of, 591, 592. Seat of Mr. Manſell, 592.
*Latimers*, a hamlet of Cheſham, 538, 539. Seat of Lord George Cavendiſh, 539.
*Latton family*, 306. Their tombs at Blewbury, 244.
*Laud*, Archbiſhop, a native of Reading, 345. His benefactions to Reading, 350.—To Windſor, 436. To Wokingham, 443.
*Launcelyn family*, tombs of, 71.
*Lavender*, diſtillery of, at Park-Place, 352.
*Lavendon*, pariſh of, 592, 593. The abbey, 592.
*Lawſon, George*, his monument at Milbrook, 117.
*Le Deſpencer family*, monuments of, at High-Wycombe, 680.
*Lea-River*, its courſe through Bedfordſhire, 22.
*Leagrave, Lightgrave*, or *Lucy's*, manor of, in Luton, 110.
*Leckhampſted*, a hamlet of Chevely, 258.
*Ledwich, Nicholas*, his tomb at Little-Marlow, 602.
*Lee*, pariſh of, 554.
*Lee*, of Moreton and Hartwell, baronets, 468, 472.
—— of Quarendon, family of, 468. Created Viſcount Quarendon and Earl of Litchfield, 470. 623. Their monuments at Ayleſbury, 505. At Quarendon, 623, 624.
*Lee family*, tombs of, at Binfield, 241.
—— *William*, his numerous progeny, 225.

*Lee-Grange*,

*Lee-Grange*, in Quainton, manor of, 622.
*Leiceſter*, Counteſs of, murdered at Cumner, 270.
*Leighton-Buſard*, town and pariſh of, 103—106. Erroneous conjecture concerning the name exploded, 103. Markets and fairs, *ibid.* Manors, 103, 104. Religious houſes, 104. Pariſh church, 30. 104. Hamlets, 105, 106.
*Leigh family*, 17. Their monuments at Leighton-Buſard, 104.
*Lekhampſted*, pariſh of, 594.
*Lenborough*, or *Lethenborough-houſe*, a hamlet and manor in Buckingham, anciently a ſeat of the Ingoldſbys, 527.
*Lenthall*, family of, 181.
*Letcombe Baſſet*, pariſh of, 311, 312.
*Letcombe-Regis*, pariſh of, 312, 313.
*Leverton*, manor of, 261.
*Levinz in Iver*, manor and park, 586.
*Liebenrood family*, monuments of at Purley, 326.
*Lillies*, the ſeat of Edmund Nugent eſq. 574.
*Lillingſtone-Dayrell*, pariſh of, 594, 595.
*Linchlade*, pariſh of, 595.
*Lincoln*, Biſhops of, their palace at Wooburn, 670.
——— *Chapel* at Windſor, and monument of Edward Earl of Lincoln, 425.
——— *Little*, pariſh of, 597.
*Liſcombe-houſe*, the ſeat of Sir Jonathan Lovett, 492. 631
*Litcote*, or *Littlecote*, a hamlet of Stewkley, 633.
*Litlington*, pariſh of, 106.
*Littlefield Green*, *Littlewick Green*, } in White Waltham, 407.
*Litton family*, tombs of at Windſor, 435.
*Lloyd, William*, Biſhop of Worceſter, a native of Tylehurſt, 390.
*Loakes*, in High-Wycombe, manor of, 676.
*Lockey family*, monuments of at Denham, 549.
*Lockinge, Eaſt*, pariſh of, 313.
——— *Weſt*, a hamlet of Wantage, 408.
*Loddon river*, its courſe through Berkſhire, 195, 196.
*Loder family*, 186.
*Longcot*, a hamlet of Shrivenham, 369.
*Longevity*, inſtances of, 66. 223. 271. 289. 428. 442. 519. 554. 570. 595. 628. 646. 668.
*Longland*, Biſhop of Lincoln, buried at Eton, 559.
*Longueville family*, 668. Their monuments at Blunham, 60. At Shitlington, 132. At Wolverton, 669.
*Longworth pariſh*, 313—315.
*Loring*, Sir *Nigel*, his reſidence at Chalgrave, 66.
*Lottery*, remarkable good fortune in, 299.
*Loudwater*, a hamlet of High-Wycombe, 677.
*Loughton*, pariſh of, 597.
*Loveden family*, 181. 255.
*Lovelace family*, 299. Their ſeat at Hurley, 299, 300.
*Lovell hill*, the ſeat of Charles Shard eſq. 437.
*Lovels-bury*, in Poteſgrave, manor of, 124.
*Lovett family*, 467. 472. Tombs of at Elſtow, 81. At Soulbury, 631.
——— Sir *Jonathan*, his ſeat at Liſcombe, 631.
*Lowbrooke*, in Bray, manor of, 248.
*Lowndes family*, 468. Monuments of at Aſtwood, 502.
*Lowther, Hannah*, Mrs., her tomb at Windſor, 427.
*Lucas*, Lady, her ſeat at Wreſt-Park, 85.
*Lude*, or *Lyde*, in Wooburn, manor of, 671.
*Ludgerſhall*, pariſh of, 597, 598. Priory, 598.
*Luffield*, priory of, 643.
*Luke family*, monuments of, 71.
——— Sir *Samuel*, ſaid to be the Hudibras of Butler, his ſeat at Woodend in Cople, 71, 72.
*Luſhington* of Southill, Baronet, 182. His ſeat at Southill, 685.
*Luton*, town and pariſh of, 106—114. Markets and fairs, 106. Manor and caſtle, 106—108. Various ſubordinate manors, 108—110. Pariſh church, 30. 111—113. Rectory, 113, 114.
*Luton-Hoo*, ſeat of the marquis of Bute, 108, 109.
*Lyford*, a hamlet of Hanney, 289.
*Lymes-end*, in Lekhampſted, manor of, 594.
*Lynn family*, tombs of at Tidmarſh, 389.
*Lytcott*, Sir *Chriſtopher*, his tomb at Hanney, 289.

M.

*Macauley Graham*, Mrs., her monument at Binfield, 241.
*Magiovintum*, a Roman ſtation, 26.
*Maid-Berry*, in Elſtow and Wilhamſted, manor of, 150.
*Maiden-Bower*, an ancient entrenchment, 35.
*Maidencote*, in Eaſt Garſton, manor of, 283.
*Maidenhead*, town of, 267—269. Its ancient name and hiſtory, 267, 268. Chapel and preſent ſtate, 268. Population, 269. Bridge, *ibid.*
*Major family*, tombs of at Preſton-Biſſet, 622.
*Makeney*, in Brightweil, manor of, 250.
*Maltravers*, in Childrey, manor of, 260.
*Manfeld*, Sir *Robert*, his tomb at Taplow, 647.
*Manſell, M. D.*, his ſeat at Lathbury, 592.
*Manſfeld*, in Iver, manor of, 586.
*Manſion-houſes*, ancient, in Berkſhire, 212, 213. In Buckinghamſhire, 492.
*Marton, Eaſt*, in Sparſholt, manor of, 371.
*Manufactures* of Bedfordſhire, 23, 24. Berkſhire, 198, 199. Buckinghamſhire, 482, 483.
*Marcham*, pariſh of, 315.
*Market cell*, ſite of a nunnery of Benedictines, 62.

*Market croſs* at Leighton-Buſard, 103. Beautiful one at Abingdon deſtroyed, 227.
*Market-Street*, in the pariſhes of Caddington and Studham, 63.
*Market towns* in Bedfordſhire, 6. In Berkſhire, 171, 172. In Buckinghamſhire, 459, 460.
*Markets* on Sundays, 385, *note*. 399.
*Markham, Gervaſe*, the laſt prior of Dunſtaple, 75.
*Markyate*, manor of, 62.
*Marlow, Great*, town and pariſh of, 598—601. The borough, 598. Market, fair, population, manors, &c. 599. Church, rectory, &c. 600. Schools and alms-houſe, 601.
——— *Little*, pariſh of, 601, 602.
——— *Bridge*, 601.
*Marriage* portions for poor maidens at Bedford, 54, 55. At Reading, 350.
*Marſh*, a hamlet of Great Kimbell, 588.
——— a hamlet of High-Wycombe, 677.
——— a manor-farm in Lower-Winchendon, 665.
*Marſh family*, tombs of at Dunſtaple, 75.
*Marſh-Gibwen*, pariſh of, 602, 603.
*Marſhalls*, in Great-Kimbell, manor of, 588.
*Marſton-Morteyne*, pariſh of, 114, 115.
——— *Fleet*, pariſh of, 603.
——— *North*, pariſh of, 603, 604.
——— a hamlet and manor in Bucklebury, 254.
*Marſworth*, pariſh of, 604.
*Marten*, family monuments of at Longworth, 314.
——— *Harry*, the regicide, *ibid.*
*Martyn, Thomas*, vicar of Little-Marlow, 602.
*Martyns*, in Wendover, manor of, 659.
*Maſcall, Euſtace*, his tomb at Farnham-Royal, 561.
*Maſe-holes*, excavations in the earth, near Reading, 215, *note*.
*Maſon, John*, a remarkable enthuſiaſt, 645.
——— Sir *John*, a native of Abingdon, 226. His benefactions to that town, 223. 228. His portrait, 229.
*Maud*, the Empreſs, her eſcape to Wallingford, 393.
*Maulden*, pariſh of, 115.
*Mauncel's Court* in Puſey, 327.
*Maunſells*, in Little Miſſenden, manor of, 608.
*Maverns* and *Glintells*, in Bolnhurſt, manor of, 61.
*May, Baptiſt*, his tomb at Windſor, 427.
*Mayne family*, tombs of at Dinton, 551. At Hogeſton, 581.
*Mays*, in Wokingham, manor of, 442.
*Mead*, Dr., reſides at Harold, 91. Monument of Mrs. Mead, *ibid.*
*Medmenham*, pariſh of, 604, 605.
——— *abbey*, *ibid.*
*Melchborn*, pariſh of, 115, 116. Preceptory and ſeat of Lord St. John, 116.
*Mentmore*, pariſh of, 605, 606.
*Mepperſhall*, pariſh of, 116, 117.
*Mepperſhall family*, their tombs at Mepperſhall, 117.
*Meretrices*, ſignification of the word in ancient records literal, 308, *note*.
*Metcalfe* of Chilton, Baronet, 184.
*Mews, Peter*, vicar of St. Mary's, Reading, 344.
*Mey, Martin*, his tomb at Windſor, 427.
*Michel family*, monuments of at Old Windſor, 414.
*Midgham*, a hamlet of Thatcham, 387.
*Milbrook*, pariſh of 117, 118.
*Milbow*, in Dunton (Bedfordſhire), manor of, 78.
*Mill-End*, in Hambleden, ſeat of the Rev. Mr. Hinde, 568.
*Milton*, pariſh of, 315, 316.
*Milton-Bryant*, pariſh of, 118.
——— *Erneſt*, pariſh of, 118, 119.
——— *Keynes*, pariſh of, 606.
*Milton* the poet, reſides during his younger days at Horton, 582. At Chalfont, during the plague, 535. Tomb of his mother, 582.
*Milward family*, tombs of at Eaſt-Claydon, 543.
*Mineral ſprings* in Bedfordſhire, 20. In Berkſhire, 193.
*Miſſenden, Great*, pariſh of, 606—608. The abbey, 606, 607. Seat of J. O. Oldham, 607.
——— *Little*, pariſh of, 608.
*Mog, Molly*, the ſubject of a well-known ſong, 442.
*Mogerhanger*, a hamlet and manor of Blunham, 60. Seat of the late Godfrey Thornton eſq. 16. 60.
*Molins*, in Weſton-Turville, manor of, 661.
*Molins family*, 467. Tombs of at Wallingford, 402. At Stoke-Poges, 491. 638.
——— Sir *John*, his caſtellated manſions at Stoke-Poges and Ditton, 635. 639.
*Monaſtic remains* in Bedfordſhire, 33, 34. In Berkſhire, 211, 212. Buckinghamſhire, 491, 492.
*Monaſteries* in Bedfordſhire, 6. In Berkſhire, 170. In Buckinghamſhire, 458, 459.
*Monkey Iſland* near Bray, 249.
*Monmouth*, Duke of, reſides at Toddington, 143.
*Monoux* of Sandy, Baronet, 15. 130. Tombs of the family at Wootton, 155.
*Montagu*, Mrs. *Elizabeth*, her ſeat at Sandleford, 353.
——— Biſhop, a native of Dorney, 552.
*Montem* at Eton, conjectures concerning its origin, 558.
*Montfort family*, tombs of at Hitchenden, 580.
*Moore* of Fawley, Baronet, 183. 280.
——— Sir *Francis*, born at Eaſt-Ilſley, 303.
*Moores* in Bray, 247.
*Moravians*, their eſtabliſhment at Bedford, 53.
*Mordaunt family*, their ſeat and monuments at Turvey, 33. 147.
*Mordaunts* in Elleſborough, 555.

*More*, Sir *Thomas*, celebrated picture of his family, 240.
*More's family*, tombs of, at Great Coxwell, 270.
*Moreton, North*, parish of, 316.
——— *South*, parish of, *ibid.*
*Morland*, Sir *Samuel*, Master of the Mechanics to King Charles II. 378.
*Morrants* in Pitston, manor of, 620.
*Morteyne*, family of, 11.
*Mortimer*, family of, 178.
*Mortimer-Stratfield*, parish of, 375—377.
*Mortimer-heath*, 376.
*Morton, John*, his tomb, at Woburn, 154.
*Morton* in Dinton, manor of, 550.
*Morton-Maids*, parish of, 609, 610.
*Moulsford*, a hamlet and manor of Chelsey, 262, 263.
*Mount, William*, his seat at Wasing, 412.
*Mountagu, Thomas*, monument of, at Winkfield, 438.
*Moyle family*, tombs of, at Caversfield, 534.
*Mulso*, parish of, 610.
*Mundy family*, tombs of, at Welford, 413.
*Muresley*, parish of, 610, 611.
*Musard*, family of, 178.
*Mychells-court* in Buscot, manor of, 255.

N.

*Napier*, Dr. *Richard*, rector of Great Lindford, 596, 597.
*Narnets* in Pitston, 620.
*Nast-end* in Lekhamsted, 594.
*Nelson family*, 180, their tombs at Chaddleworth, 256, 257.
*Netherbury*, manor of, in Great Barford, 41; in Great Missenden, 608.
*Nether-court*, in Burfield, manor of, 255.
*Nether-Dean*, manor of, 72.
*Nether-Shelton*, in Marston-Morteyne, manor of, 114.
*Nettleden*, a hamlet of Pitston, 621.
*Neville*, family of, 179. Their tombs at Laurence-Waltham, 404.
——— *Edward*, his monument at Shillingford, 361.
——— *Henry*, the republican writer, 404—410.
*New-Bridge*, 307.
*Newbury*, town and parish of, 316—322. Its ancient name and early history, 317. Castle, *ib.* Battles fought near the town in the civil war, 317, 318. Markets, 318. Corporation and present state, 319. Manor, 319, 320. Parish church, 320. Hospitals and alms-houses, 321, 322.
*Newbury*, Baron of, 181.
*Newbury*, *Jack* of, his supposed portrait at Bucklebury, 253. Particulars relating to him, 320.
*Newbury* in Stoke, Mandeville, manor of, 635.
*Newcome*, archbishop, a native of Abingdon, 226.
*Newdigate*, *Anthony*, his monument at Hawnes, 93. Sir Robert entertains King James I. 92.
*Newenham* Priory, 89.
——— in Warfield, manor of, 410.
*Newenton*, in Buckland, manor of, 253.
*Newhaven, Wm.* Lord, his monument at Drayton Beauchamp, 552.
*Newland*, liberty, in Hurst, 301.
*Newlands*, the seat of Sir H. T. Gott, 535.
*Newport*, Pagnell, town and parish of, 612—614. Market, manor, castle, &c. 612. Tichford-abbey, 613. Church, *ibid.* Rectory, hospital, &c. 618.
*Newton*, Dr. his monument at Lavendon, 593.
*Newton-Blossomville*, parish of, 611.
——— *Longueville*, parish of, 611, 612.
*Newtown* in Hungerford, 295.
*Niches*, gothic, in Bedfordshire, 31. In Berkshire, 206, 207. In Buckinghamshire, 489.
*Nicolls, Robert*, his monument at Ampthill, 39.
*Noblemens' seats* in Bedfordshire, 14, 15. In Berkshire, 182. In Buckinghamshire, 470, 471.
*Noke, Thomas*, his tomb at Shattlesbroke, 363, 364.
*Norcot*, a hamlet and manor, near Abingdon, 224.
*Norreys* or *Norris family*, 179. 282.
——— Sir *Edward*, his seat at Englefield, 275.
——— Sir *John*, his monument at Yattendon, 445, 446.
——— *William*, his monument at Bray, 249.
*Northall*, a hamlet of Edlesborough, 555.
*Northill*, parish of, 119—121. The church, 30 College, 120.
*North-heath*, a hamlet of Cheveley, 259.
*North-town* in Cookham, 267.
*North-wood* in Luton, manor of, 109.
*Nottingham*; Lord Chancellor, his seat and monument at Ravenston, 625, 626. Hospital founded by him, *ibid.*
*Nottingham's* fee in Blewbury, manor of, 244.
*Nugent, Edward*, his seat at Wedon, 574.
*Nutley Abbey*, 546, 547. Remains of, 491, 492 547.

O.

*Oak-end* in Iver, manor of, 586.
*Oakfield* in Stratfield, Mortimer, manor of, 375, 376.
*Oakingham*, see *Wokingham*.
*Oakley* in Bedfordshire, parish of, 121. Duke of Bedford's villa, *ibid.*

*Oakley*, in Buckinghamſhire, pariſh of, 614, 615.
*Oakley-Green* in Bray, 248.
*Oare*, a hamlet and manor in Cheveley, 258.
*Ock river*, its courſe, 196.
*Ockholt*, an ancient manſion and manor in Bray, 213. 247. 684.
*Odell*, pariſh of, 121, 122. Church 30. Caſtle, 16. 122.
*Odſton* in Aſhbury, manor and hamlet of, 236.
*Offa*, King, reſides at Abingdon, 219. Said to be buried at Bedford, 43.
*Ogilvie*, Dr. his ſeat at Old Windſor, 415.
*Okeney*, pariſh of, 615.
*Okey*, Colonel, *Cuſtos Rotulorum* of Bedfordſhire, 683.
*Olbury* in Stoke-Mandeville, manor of, 635.
*Oldham*, *J. O.* his ſeat at Miſſenden Abbey, 607.
*Olney*, town and pariſh of, 615—617.
*Ongley*, Lord, his ſeat at Warden, 148. Monument of Sir Samuel, *ibid.*
*Orchard*, Weſt, in Hartwell, manor of, 574.
*Orlebar family*, their monuments at Pudington, 125.
——— *Richard*, his ſeat, *ibid.*
*Orrery*, *Anne*, Counteſs of, buried at Taplow, 647.
*Oſborn* of Chickſand, Baronet, 15. 68.
—— portraits of the family, 68. Their *columbarium* at Campton, 64. Tombs at Hawnes, 93.
*Ounham*, a hamlet of Boxford, 245.
*Ouſe river*, its courſe through Bedfordſhire, 20, 21. Its fiſh, &c. 20. 480. Inundations, 21. Its courſe through Buckinghamſhire, 480.
*Ouſel river*, 22. 480.
*Overbury*, manor of, 608—635.
*Over-dean*, manor of, 72.
*Overhall* in Hitchenden, manor of, 580.
*Oving*, pariſh of, 617. Seat of Major-general Northey Hopkins, *ibid.*
*Oxenbridge*, *John*, his chapel at Windſor, 425.
*Oxenwood* in Shalbourn, manor of, 354.
*Oxford*, *Diana*, Counteſs of, mauſoleum to her memory at Maulden, 115.

P.

*Pabenham family*, 11.
*Packer family*, tombs of, at Bucklebury, 254. At Shillingford, 361.
*Padbury*, pariſh of, 617, 618.
*Padworth*, pariſh of, 322, 323.
——— houſe, 323.
*Paganell*, family of, 178.
*Pagett*, *James*, his monument at Windſor, 435.
*Pakington family*, 468. 504, 505. Their ſeat at Ayleſbury, 505.
——— *Dorothy*, Lady, her monument at Hawridge, 577.
——— Sir *John*, entertains King James I. with great ſplendour, 505.
*Palaces royal*, at Dunſtaple, 73. In Berkſhire, 178. Abingdon, 219. In Buckinghamſhire, 466. Brill, 522. Cippenham, 531. Iſenhamſted-Cheneys, 584.
*Paley-ſtreet* in White-Waltham, 407.
*Palliſer*, Sir *Hugh*, his ſeat at the Vache, 534. His monument at Chalfont, St. Giles, 535.
*Palmer family*, monuments of, at Hurſt, 302.
——— of Dorney, baronet, 468—472. 551.
——— *Richard*, his ſeat at Holme Park, 379.
*Pangbourn*, pariſh of, 323, 324.
*Paper-mills*, in Berkſhire, 198. In Buckinghamſhire, 483.
*Parentynes* in Sharnbrook, manor of, 131.
*Park-place*, the ſeat of the late Marſhall Conway, now of the Earl of Malmſbury, 351, 352.
*Parker family*, tombs of, at Hedſor, 578.
*Parlaunt*, park and manor in Iver and Langley, 586, 590.
*Parmoor*, the ſeat of John Doyley, 569.
*Parry*, *Anne*, Lady, her monument at Welford, 413.
*Parſons*, of Langley, 471. 590.
*Parſons*, *Robert*, portioniſt of Waddeſdon, 656.
*Paſſelew family*, 467.
*Pater-Noſter bank*, held by the ſervice of ſaying a Pater-noſter, 292.
——— land at Puſey, held by the ſame ſervice, by the Pater-noſter family, 327.
*Patſhull family*, 11.
*Paule*, Sir *William*, his monument at Bray, 249.
*Pavely*, family of, 11. Tombs of, at Melchborn, 116.
*Pavenham*, pariſh of, 122, 123.
*Payne family*, monuments of, at Pudington, 125.
—— of Tempsford, Baronet, 140. Tombs of, in the church, *ibid.*
*Paynell's court* in Buſcot, manor of, 255.
*Peaſemore*, pariſh of, 324, 325.
*Peckham family*, monuments of, at Denham, 549.
*Pelham*, Sir *William*, reſides at Ethorp, 655.
*Pembroke*, *Mary*, Counteſs of, builds the houſe at Houghton Park, 96.
——— college in Oxford, foundation of, 229, 230.
*Pembrugge*, *Margaret*, Lady, her tomb at Shotteſbroke, 363.
*Penel-place*, ſeat of James Bonnel, 415.
*Peniſton*, *Heſter*, Lady, her monument at Stowe, 642.
*Penn family*, 467. Monuments of, at Penn, 618.
—— *John*, his ſeat at Stoke-Poges, 637.
*Penn*, pariſh of, 618, 619. Fine proſpect from the church, 618.
—— ſtreet, 619.
*Penthecoſt*, *Thomas*, the laſt Abbot of Abingdon, rewarded for acknowledging the King's ſupremacy, 218.

*Percy*,

*Percy Lodge* in Iver, 586, 587.
*Perkins family*, monument of, at Ufton, 392.
*Perrot family*, monument of, at Fyfield, 282.
*Perry family*, memorials of, at Turville, 651.
*Pertenhall*, parish of, 123.
——— *How*, manor of, *ibid.*
*Peterborough, Charles*, Earl of, buried at Turvey, 147.
*Peterley-houſe* in Great Miſſenden, ancient ſeat of the Dormers, 607, 608.
*Petſoe*, pariſh of, 619.
*Petwick* in Letcombe-Regis, manor of, 313.
*Peyvre family*, 11. Their monuments at Toddington, 33. 144.
——— Paulinus, ſteward of the houſehold to King Henry III. His magnificent manſion at Toddington, 143.
*Philberd's-court* in Eaſt-Hanney, manor of, 288, 289.
*Philip* and *Mary* at Reading, 330.
*Phillips*, Sir *John*, his monument, at Eaſt-Hagbourn, 284.
*Philpot's-court* in Buſcot, manor of, 255.
*Phipps*, Sir *Conſtantine*, a native of Reading, 345. His monument at White-Waltham, 406.
*Pigot* or *Pigott family*, 468. Their tombs at Lower Gravenhurſt, 90. At Grendon-Underwood, 566. At Whaddon, 663.
*Pillinge* in Wootton, manor of, 155.
*Pinfold*, Sir *Thomas*, his monument at Walton, 657.
*Pinkney's Green* and *Manor* in Cookham, 266, 267.
*Piſcinæ* in Bedfordſhire, 32. In Berkſhire, 208. In Buckingſhire, 489, 490.
*Pitchcote*, pariſh of, 619.
*Pitſton*, pariſh of, 619—621.
*Pixe, Elizabeth*, her epitaph at Walton, 657.
*Plaiſtowe family*, tombs of, at Lee, 594.
*Plants*, rare, in Bedfordſhire, 19, 20. In Berkſhire, 192, 193. In Buckinghamſhire, 478.
*Pleydell family*, 180. Their monuments at Coleſhill, 264. At Faringdon, 279.
*Pluknet*, manor of, 685.
*Pocklington, John*, rector of Yielden, 156.
*Pocock family*, 181. Their tombs at Turville, 651.
——— *Edward*, rector of Childrey, 260.
*Poges family*, 467.
*Poghly*, priory, 257.
*Polehanger* in Mepperſhall, manor of, 116.
*Poles* in Elleſborough, manor of, 555.
*Policote, Great* and *Little*, in Aſhendon, manors of, 499.
*Pomfret, John*, ſaid to be a native of Luton, 114. Rector of Maulden, 115.
*Pontes*, a Roman ſtation, conjectures concerning, 203.
*Poor-folks*, paſture at Brill, given to the poor by King William III. 518.
*Poor Knights* of *Windſor*, 429—431.
*Pope*, the poet, his reſidence at Binfield, 241. A viſitor at Richings, 586.
*Population* of *Bedfordſhire*, 7—10. Of Berkſhire, 172—177. Of Buckinghamſhire, 460—465.
*Pordage, John*, rector of Bradfield, 246. Vicar of St. Laurence, Reading, 343.
*Portland*, Duke of, his ſeat at Bulſtrode, 654.
*Portraits* at Bromham, 61, 62. At Chicksand, 68. At Luton-Hoo, 109. At Melchborn, 116. At Southill, 134. At Woburn Abbey, 152, 153. At Chriſt's Hoſpital in Abingdon, 229. In the council-chamber at Reading, 339. In the Guildhall at Windſor, 434. At Hall-barn, 507. At Middle Claydon, 543. At Checkers, 555. At Eton-college, 560. At Fawley court, 562. At Gayhurſt, 564. At Hampden, 571. At Hartwell, 574. At Hedſor, 577. At Liſcombe, 631. At Stowe, 641, 642. At Bulſtrode, 654. At Ethorp, 656.
*Port-way*, a Roman road in Berkſhire, 203.
*Potesgrave*, pariſh of, 123, 124.
*Pottery*, Roman, found in Bedfordſhire, 24. 199.
*Potton*, pariſh of, 124, 125.
*Poulton family*, buried at Buckingham, 528.
*Poundon*, a hamlet of Twyford, 652.
*Powle*, Sir *Richard*, his tomb at Shotteſbroke, 363.
*Powney family*, monument of, in Old-Windſor, 414.
*Pratt*, Sir *Henry*, his monument at Coleſhill, 264.
——— *Samuel*, his tomb at Windſor, 428.
*Prebend-end*, a hamlet of Buckingham, 529.
*Preceptory* at Greenham, 387.
*Preſtley* in Flitwick, manor of, 88.
*Preſton-Biſſet*, pariſh of, 621, 622.
*Preſtwood* in Stoke-Mandeville, 635.
*Price*, family of, 186.
*Prior's-court* in Cheveley, 259.
*Pritchard*, Sir *William*, his monument at Great Linford, 596.
*Privilege*, extraordinary of the Burgeſſes of Wallingford, 394, 395.
*Proby*, family of Raans in Amerſham, 497.
*Proſpect Hill*, the ſeat of J. E. Liebenrood, Eſq. 389.
*Pudington*, pariſh of, 125. Church, 28.
*Pulford, John*, his generous benefaction to the vicarage of Leighton-Buſard, 104.
*Purbeck*, Lady, ſentenced to do penance for adultery, 636. Eſcapes from priſon, 637.
*Purcell, Edward*, his tomb at Witham, 439.
*Purefoy family*, 468. Their monuments at Faringdon, 279. At Shalleſton, 628.
*Purley*, pariſh of, 325, 326.
——— houſe, ſeat of the Hon. Mrs. Storer, 325.
——— Little, manor of, *ibid.*

*Purley-Hall*, ſeat of Dr. Wilder, 325.
*Puſey*, pariſh of, 326, 327.
*Puſey family*, 180. 326.
—— *John-Allen*, monument of, 327.
*Putnoe* or *Puttenhoe* in Goldington, manor of, 89.
*Pye family*, monuments of, at Faringdon, 279.
*Pym, Francis*, his ſeat at the Haſells, 130.

Q.

*Quainton*, pariſh of, 622, 623.
*Quarendon*, pariſh of, 623, 624. Effects of a great ſtorm there in 1570, 623.
*Queen's Lodge*, at Windſor, 432.

R.

*Raans* in Amerſham, manor of, ancient ſeat of the Brudenells, 497.
*Radcliffe*, Dr. repreſents the borough of Buckingham, 525. His eſtates at Wolverton bequeathed to the Univerſity of Oxford, 668, 669.
*Radcliffe* or *Ratcliffe*, pariſh of, 624, 625.
*Radley*, pariſh of, 327, 328.
*Radwell*, a hamlet of Felmerſham, 84.
*Ragons* in Pullox-hill, manor of, 126.
*Rampions* in Childrey, manor of, 260.
*Ramſey family*, monuments of, at Hitcham, 579.
*Randal, John*, a native of Great Miſſenden, 608.
*Ranelagh*, Earl of, his ſchool at Winkfield, 438.
*Ravenden*, pariſh of, 126.
———— grange, *ibid.*
*Ravenſton*, pariſh of, 625, 626. Priory, 625.
*Rawdon*, Sir *Marmaduke*, his tomb at Faringdon, 279.
*Raymond family*, monuments of, at Kentbury, 306.
*Reade*, of Barton Court, Baronet, family of, 179—183.
*Reading*, account of, 328—351. Early hiſtory of the town, 328. Various hiſtorical events connected with it, 329—333. The caſtle, 329. 339. The abbey, 333—336. Grey Friars, 336, 337. Corporation and borough, 337, 338. Population, 338, 339. Aſſizes, goal, &c. 339. Markets, fairs, manufactures, &c. 340. Manors, 340, 341. Pariſh churches, 342—345. Meeting-houſes, 345. Eminent natives, *ibid.* Schools, 345—348. Hoſpitals and alms-houſes, 348—350. Archbiſhop Laud's, and Mr. Kendrick's benefactions, 350. Other charities, 351.
———— *Abbey*, foundation of, 333. Parliaments held there, 334. Diſſolved and made a royal palace, *ibid.* Its remains, 211. 335, 336. Abbey-houſe, 335.
*Reeve*, Sir *Thomas*, his monument at Windſor, 435.
*Reeves, Pelſant*, his monument, 235.
———— *William*, vicar of St. Mary, Reading, 344.
*Remenham*, pariſh of, 351, 352.
*Renhold*, pariſh of, 126, 127.
*Reynes family*, 468. Their tombs at Marſton-Morteyne, 114. At Oakley, 121. At Clifton Reynes, 545.
*Rich*, of Sunning, Baronet, 379.
—— *Robert*, a native of Abingdon, 226.
—— Sir *Thomas*, his monument at Sunning, 381.
*Richard I.* King, at Reading, 329.
———— *II.* King, at Reading, 330.
———— *III.* King, takes poſſeſſion of the perſon of King Edward V. at Stony Stratford, 644.
*Richards family*, tombs of, at Compton Beauchamp, 266.
*Richings Lodge* in Iver, 586.
*Ridgmont*, pariſh, 127, 128.
*Ridgway*, an ancient road, its courſe through Berkſhire, 202.
*Ringſhall*, a hamlet in Ellesborough and Ivinghoe, 588.
*Riſborough Monks*, pariſh of, 626.
———— *Princes*, pariſh of, 626, 627. 688.
*Riſeley*, pariſhof, 128.
—— a hamlet of Swallowfield, 385.
*Riſinghoe caſtle*, 89.
*Riſkins*, in Iver, 587.
*Riſley family*, tombs of at Chetwode, 540
*Rivers* in Bedfordſhire, 20—22. In Berkſhire, 193. 196. In Buckinghamſhire, 479, 480.
*Roads* in Bedfordſhire, 22, 23. In Berkſhire, 197, 198. In Buckinghamſhire, 481, 482.
—— Roman, in Bedfordſhire, 25—28. In Berkſhire, 200—203. In Buckinghamſhire, 483—485.
*Robinſon family*, tombs of at Pangbourn, 324.
*Rogers family*, 179.
*Rokeleys*, in Aſtwood, manor of, 501.
*Rokeſac*, or *Ruxox*, priory of, 87, 88.
*Roland family*, tombs of at Cople, 71
*Roman remains* in Bedfordſhire, 24. In Berkſhire, 199. In Buckinghamſhire, 483.
*Roodlofts* in Bedfordſhire, 31. In Berkſhire, 206. In Buckinghamſhire, 489.
*Roos, George*, Lord, his monument at Windſor, 427.
*Roſe-hill*, in Wargrave, 411.
*Roſe-nobles* found at Stratton, 57.
*Rotheram family*, tombs of at Luton, 113.
*Rowe, Nicholas*, born at Little-Barford, 42.
*Rowſe, Francis*, provoſt of Eton, 559, 560.
*Rowſham*, a hamlet of Wing, 667.
*Roxton*, pariſh of, 128. 129.
*Rudge family*, tombs of at Laurence-Waltham, 404.
*Rudyerd*, Sir *Benjamin*, buried at Weſt-Woodhay, 444.

*Ruſford*,

*Rufford family*, tombs of at Ellesborough, 554.
*Rumbald*, Saint, his shrine at Buckingham, 524.
*Ruscomb*, parish of, 352.
*Rushdens*, in Stanford-Dingley, 374.
*Rushall*, in Bradfield, manor of, 246.
*Russell*, Duke of Bedford, family of, 13, 14. 584. Their seat and portraits at Woburn, 152. Their seat at Cheneys, 584.
——— *William*, Lord, his monument at Cheneys, 585.
——— of Checkers, Baronet, 555.
*Rutland chapel* at Windsor, 427.
*Ruxox*, in Flitwich, ancient monastery there, 87, 88. Manor of, 88.
*Ryves, Bruno*, his tomb at Windsor, 426.

S.

*Sachariſſa*, Waller's, supposed portrait of, 507.
*Sadleir family*, 17. 40, 41. Tombs of at Aſpley-Guiſe, 41.
*St. Amand family*, 11.
*St. John family*, 14, 15. 58, 59.
——— Sir *John*, his monument at Bletsoe, 59.
——— Lord, his seat at Melchborn, 116.
*St. Leger*, Sir *Thomas*, his tomb at Windor, 211. 427.
*St. Leonards hill*, seats of General Harcourt and Mr. Birch, 263. Hermitage there, 684.
*St. Margarets*, a hamlet of Ivinghoe, 555. 588. Nunnery there, 588.
*St. Paul's*, Bedford, church of, 30.
*Salden*, in Muresley, manor of, 610, 611.
——— *house*, ancient seat of the Forteſcues, 611.
*Salford*, parish of, 129.
*Salinæ*, a Roman station, 27.
*Saliſbury family*, tomb of at Great-Marlow, 600.
*Salphobury*, in Renhold, manor of, 127.
*Salter family*, monuments of at Iver, 587.
*Salvator Roſa*, paintings erroneouſly aſcribed to him at Lady-Place in Hurley, 300, *note*.
*Sandon-fee*, a tithing of Hungerford, 295.
*Sanderton*, parish of, 627, 628.
*Sandhurſt*, parish of, 352, 353.
*Sandleford*, parish of, 353. The priory, now the seat of M. Montague esq. *ibid.*
*Sandy*, parish of, 129, 130. Seat of Sir P. Monoux, 130.
*Sandys, Thomas*, Lord, his monument at Hambleden, 569.
*Sarſden-ſtones*, 192.
*Satwell*, parish of, 353.
*Saunders family*, tombs of at Poteſgrave, 124. At Haddenham, 567.
*Saville*, Sir *Henry*, his monument at Eton, 559.
——— *Margaret*, Lady, her monument at Hurſt, 301.
*Sawyer*, Sir *Edmund*, his monument at White-Waltham, 406.
*Saxon architecture*, remains of in Bedfordſhire, 28, 29. In Berkſhire, 204, 205. In Buckinghamſhire, 486, 487.
*Saxton* of Circourt, Baronet, 184.
*Say* and *Sele*, family monuments of at Grendon-Underwood, 566.
——— *Chriſtabella*, Lady, her longevity, *ibid.*
*Scenery*, picturesque, in Bedfordſhire, 18. In Berkſhire, 191. In Buckinghamſhire, 476, 477.
*Schools*, Bedford, 53, 54. Abingdon, 229, 230. Reading, 345—347. Eton, 556—558.
——— ſaid to have been founded by King Henry I. at Dunſtaple, 76.
*Schorne*, Sir *John*, his ſhrine at North-Marſton, 603.
*Schutz*, Baron, his monument at Oakley, 615.
*Scott, Robert*, his seat at Danesfield, 605.
——— Sir *William*, his seat at Earley-Court, 380.
*Scrope family*, monuments of at Hambleden, 569.
*Seacourt*, an extra-parochial place, 439.
*Sear-Green*, in Farnham-Royal, 561.
*Seare family*, 468. Their tombs at Hawridge, 577. At Marſworth, 604.
*Sedan-chairs*, when and by whom introduced into England, 42.
*Sefton*, Earl of, his seat at Stoke, 640.
*Segenhoe*, an ancient parish, 128. The caſtle, 127.
——— *cum Ridgmont*, manor of, *ibid.*
*Segraves*, in Penn, manor of, 618.
*Seintclare*, in Hartwell, manor of, 574, 575.
*Selby, William*, his seat at Winſlow, 668.
*Selwood-Park*, seat of J. Sibbald esq. 382.
*Seovecheſham*, or *Seuſham*, the ancient name of Abingdon, 216.
*Serjeant family*, tombs of at Dinton, 551.
*Setile, Elkanah*, a native of Dunſtaple, 77.
*Sewell family*, tomb of at Houghton-Regis, 100.
*Sewell* in Houghton Regis, manor of, 99.
*Sextons*, in Wilden, manor of, 150.
*Seymour family*, monuments of at Lambourn, 310.
——— Queen *Jane*, buried at Windsor, 425.
*Seymours*, in Great-Marlow, manor of, 600.
*Seyton*, in Ellesborough, manor of, 555.
*Shabbington*, or *Shobbington*, parish of, 628.
*Shalbourn*, parish of, 353, 354.
*Shalleſton*, parish of, 628, 629.
*Shardeloes*, seat of Mr. Drake, 496, 497.
*Sharnbrooke*, parish of, 130, 131.
*Sharpenhoe*, a hamlet and manor in Stretly (Bedfordſhire), 137. 683.
*Shaw*, parish of, 354—359.

*Shaw-*

*Shaw-Place*, ſome time a ſeat of the Dolmans, now of Sir J. Andrews, Baronet, 354, 355. Occupied by ſome of the King's troops, in the ſecond battle of Newbury, 355.
——— in Old Windſor, manor of, 414.
*Shaw family*, monuments of at Kentbury, 306.
*Sheafe, Thomas*, rector of Welford, 413.
*Sheep-walks*, extenſive, in Berkſhire, 189.
*Shefford*, in Bedfordſhire, town of, 64.
——— *Great*, pariſh of, 359, 360.
——— *Little*, pariſh of, 360.
*Shelburne*, Earls of, their ſeat and monuments at High-Wycombe, 677.
*Shelton*, pariſh of, 131, 132.
*Shenley*, pariſh of, 629.
——— *Manſell*, manor of, *ibid.*
*Sheppard, Thomas*, his tomb at Stewkley, 633.
*Sherrington*, pariſh of, 629, 630.
*Shillingford*, pariſh of, 360, 361.
*Shilton*, pariſh of, 361.
*Shinfield*, pariſh of, 361, 362.
*Shipbridge, Great* and *Little*, in Shinfield, manors of, 362.
*Shipman*, Major, his monument at Linchlade, 595.
*Shippon*, a hamlet and manor in St. Helen's, Abingdon, 224.
*Shipton*, a hamlet of Winſlow, 668.
*Shipton-Lee*, in Quainton, manor of, 622.
*Shitlington*, pariſh of, 132, 133.
——— *Bury*, ſome time a ſeat of the Longuevilles, 132.
*Shortgrave*, in Studham, 137.
*Shotteſbroke*, pariſh of, 362—364.
——— *college*, 362.
*Shredding-Green*, in Iver, 587.
*Shrivenham*, pariſh of, 364—369.
——— *Clay-Court*, manor of, 365.
——— *Stalpits*, manor of, *ibid.*
*Sibbald, James*, his ſeat at Selwood-Park, 382.
*Sidmouth*, Lord, reſides at Woodley-Lodge in Sunning, 381.
*Siege* of Bedford-Caſtle, 43—45. Abingdon, 221. Faringdon-Houſe, 277. Reading, 331, 332. Wallingford-Caſtle, 393. 395. 397. Windſor-Caſtle, 417. 419. Borſtall houſe, 517. Brill, 523. Greenland-Houſe, 568, 569.
*Silſoe*, a hamlet of Flitton, formerly a market-town, 87.
*Simpſon*, pariſh of, 630.
*Singleborough*, a hamlet of Great-Harwood, 575.
*Sinodun-hill*, ancient entrenchment there, 214, 215. 440.
*Sinſham*, in Hurſt, manor of, 301.
*Skirmiſh* at Reading, 333. At Twyford, 302.
*Skottowe family*, monuments of at Cheſham, 537.
*Slapton*, pariſh of, 630, 631.
*Slough*, a hamlet of Upton, 654.
*Smewin*, in White-Waltham, manor of, 405.
*Smewnes-Grange*, a manor in Great-Brickhill and Soulbury, 521. 632.
*Smith*, Biſhop of Lincoln, Dr. Churton's vindication of him, 670.
——— Sir *Edward*, his monument at Whitechurch, 664.
——— Sir *Thomas*, a native of Abingdon, 226.
*Snagg family*, monuments of at Marſton-Morteyne, 114.
*Snellſon*, a hamlet of Lavendon, 593.
*Snelſhall priory*, 663.
*Snelſmore*, a hamlet of Chevely, 259.
*Snelſoe*, in the pariſh of Whaddon, 663.
*Soil* of Bedfordſhire, 18. Of Berkſhire, 188, 189. of Buckinghamſhire, 475.
*Somerſet, Frances*, Ducheſs of, her ſeat at St. Leonard's hill, 263. 684. And Richings, 586.
*Somery family*, 178.
*Soulbury*, pariſh of, 631, 632.
*Souldrop*, pariſh of, 133.
*Southby family*, 179. 186. Their monuments at Appleton, 234. At Buckland, 253.
*Southcot, Rebecca*, her monument at Windſor, 435.
*Southcote*, a hamlet of St. Mary, Reading, 341. Seat of the Blagraves, *ibid.*
*Southill*, pariſh of, 133, 134.
——— *Houſe*, ſometime a ſeat of the Byngs, now of Samuel Whitbread eſq. 16. 134.
——— *Park*, in Eaſt Hampſted, the ſeat of Sir Stephen Luſhington, 685.
*South-Moor*, a hamlet of Longworth, 315.
*Southridge*, in Stretly (Berkſhire), 377.
*Sparke*, Dr., his monument at Bletſoe, 512, 513.
*Sparſholt*, pariſh of, 369—371.
*Speen*, pariſh of, 371—373.
——— *Church*, manor of, 371, 372.
——— *Wood*, manor of, 372.
*Speenhamland*, a tithing of Speen, 372, 373.
*Spencer, John*, tomb of, 622.
*Spenſer, Edmund*, at Whaddon, 662.
*Sperſholt-Court*, in Weſt-Hendred, 293.
*Spinæ*, a Roman ſtation, 200. 203.
*Stackhouſe, Thomas*, his monument at Beenham, 239, 240.
*Stafford, Thomas*, his monument at Shenley, 629.
*Stafford-Bridge* over the Ouſe, 123.
*Stagſden*, pariſh of, 134.
*Stained glaſs*, ancient, at Eaton-Socon, 30. At Luton, 30. At Northill, 120. At Warden, 31. At Childrey, 260. At Cheſham-Bois, 488. At Chetwode, *ibid.* At Hilleſden, 488. 579. At Hitcham, *ibid.*
*Stalls, ſtone*, in Bedfordſhire, 32. Berkſhire, 207, 208. Buckinghamſhire, 489, 490.
*Stanbridge*, a hamlet of Leighton-Buſard, 105. Three manors there, 105, 106.
——— *Chapel*, 106.

*Standen*

*Standen family*, 235.
*Standen-Hussey*, in Hungerford, manor of, 297.
——— *House*, seat of Thomas Michell esq. *ibid.*
——— *North*, in Hungerford, manor of, *ibid.*
*Stanford-Dingley*, parish of, 374, 375.
——— *in the Vale*, parish of, 373, 374.
*Stanlake*, in Ruscomb, sometime seat of the Aldworths, now of Sir Nathaniel Dukenfield, 352.
*Stanmore*, a hamlet and manor in Beedon, 339.
*Stanton*, Sir *Francis*, his monument at Woburn, 552.
*Stanton-Barry*, parish of, 632, 633.
*Staplefordh*, in Luton, parish of, 109.
*Starkey family*, tombs of at Windsor, 425.
*Stations*, Roman, in Bedfordshire, 20—28. In Berkshire, 203, 204. In Buckinghamshire, 485, 486.
*Staughton, Little*, parish of, 134, 135.
*Staverton family*, 179. Their burial place at Warfield, 416.
*Stephen*, King, at Dunstaple, 73. Besieges Wallingford, 393.
*Stepingly*, parish of, 135.
*Stevens family*, tomb of at Wargrave, 413.
*Stevington*, in Bedfordshire, parish of, 135, 136.
——— in Dessimire, parish of, 375.
*Stewkley*, parish of, 634, 635. Its curious Saxon church, 180, 633.
*Stillingfleet*, Bishop, rector of Sutton, 139.
*Stirling, Henry*, Earl of, his tomb at Binfield, 241.
*Stockgrove*, the seat of Edward Hanmer esq. 632.
*Stockholt*, in Arkely, manor of, 498.
*Stockton*, Sir *Edward*, his tomb at Cookham, 464.
*Stodel*, Sir *John*, his tomb at Upper-Winchendon, 604.
*Stoke-Goldington*, parish of, 634.
——— *Hamond*, parish of, 634, 635.
——— *Mandeville*, parish of, 635.
——— *Poges*, parish of, 635—640. Manor-house, the subject of Gray's long story, 637. Churchyard, scene of Gray's elegy, 638. Hospital founded by Lord Hastings, 638, 639.
——— *Farm*, in Stoke-Poges, seat of the Earl of Sefton, 640.
——— *Park*, seat of John Penn esq. 637.
——— *Place*, seat of General Vyse, 640.
*Stokes, David*, his tomb at Windsor, 425.
*Stondon*, parish of, 136.
*Stone*, parish of, 610.
*Stone-stalls* in Bedfordshire, 23. In Berkshire, 207, 208. In Buckinghamshire, 489, 490.
*Stonehouse* of Standen, monument of at Hungerford, 298.
*Stonhouse* of Radley, Baronet, 163, 327. Monuments of at Radley, 328.
*Stoppesley*, in Luton, manor of, 109, 110.
*Storer, Anthony*, his donation to Eton, 566. His monument at Purley, 326.
——— Hon. Mrs., her seat at Purley, 325.
*Storm*, severe, at Ampthill, 39. At Quainton, 629.
*Stotfold*, parish of, 156.
*Stowe*, parish of, 640—643. Seat of the Marquis of Buckingham, 641, 642. Gardens, 642.
*Stratfield-Mortimer*, parish of, 375, 376.
*Stratford-Fenny*, a hamlet in Bletchley and Simpson, 513—515.
——— *Stony*, tower of, 643.
——— *Water*, parish of, 635, 636.
*Stratton*, a hamlet of Biggleswade, 57, 58.
*Straw*, manufacture of, 44.
*Streatly*, in Berkshire, parish of, 217.
*Streets*, in Bedfordshire, parish of, 136, 137.
*Strood*, a tithing of Cumner, 271.
*Stubbins*, seat of Lord Dorchester, 182, 244.
*Studham*, parish of, 137, 138. The church, 99, 137.
*Styles family*, tombs of at Great-Missenden, 608.
*Suckling, Sir John*, portrait of, 574.
*Suffolk, Charles Brandon*, Duke of, his portrait at Lidcombe, 632. His tomb at Windsor, 429.
*Sugworth*, a hamlet of Radley, 328.
*Sulham*, parish of, 377.
*Sulhamsted Abbots*, parish of, 377, 378.
——— *Bannister*, parish of, 378, 379.
*Sumner family*, monuments of at Burnham, 532.
*Sundon*, parish of, 138, 684.
*Sunning*, parish of, 379—381.
*Sunninghill*, parish of, 382.
*Sunning-Park*, the seat of Mr. Crutchley, *ibid.*
——— *Wells*, *ibid.*
*Sunningwell*, parish of, 382, 383.
*Sutton*, parish of, 138, 139. Tradition of a grant of the manor by John of Gaunt refuted, 138.
——— *Courtenay*, parish of, 383, 384. Rectorial house 213, 384.
——— *Wick*, a hamlet of Sutton-Courtenay, 384.
*Swallowfield*, parish of, 384, 385.
——— *Place*, seat of T. H. Earl esq. *ibid.*
*Swanbourn* parish of, 646.
*Swift*, Dean, at Letcombe-Regis, 311, 312.
*Swinford*, a tithing of Cumner, 271.
*Swynfields*, Sir *John*, his tomb at Edlesborough, 554.
*Sydney*, Sir *Philip*, erroneous tradition of his residence at Houghton-park, 97.

T.

*Taplow*, parish of, 646, 647.
——— *Court*, seat of the Marquis of Thomond, 646.
*Taylor, Edward*, his monument at Bletchley, 513.

*Teasdale, Thomas*, founder of Pembroke College in Oxford, 219, 230.
*Tebworth*, a hamlet of Chelgrave, 63.
*Temple family*, date of their settling at Stowe, 640. Their tombs at Stanton-Barry, 633.
——— *Hester*, Lady, her numerous progeny, 538.
*Temple-Hills*, in Sharnbrooke, manor of, 131.
——— *House*, seat of Owen Williams esq. 244.
——— *Mills* at Bisham, account of, 198, 199, 244.
——— *Wycombe*, manor of, 676.
*Tempsford*, parish of, 139, 140.
*Tenure*, singular, of lands at Meppershall, 116. At East Hendred, 292. At Lambourn, 308. At Padworth, 322. At Pusey, 325. At Shottesbroke, 363. At Becket, 366. At Benham-Lovel, 413. At Aylesbury, 505. At Water-Eaton and Water-Hall, 511. At Borstall, 516. At Hedsor, 577, 578.
*Term* kept at Reading in 1025, 330.
*Tetchwick*, a hamlet and manor in Ludgershall, 590.
*Thame river*, its course through Buckinghamshire, 479. Commission of sewers for cleansing it, *ibid.* Its fish, *ibid.*
*Thames river*, its course as a boundary to Berkshire, 193. Bridges over it, *ibid.* Attempts at improving the navigation, 194. Its course as a boundary to Buckinghamshire, 479.
*Thatcham*, parish of 385—388.
*Theale*, a tithing of Tylehurst, 390.
*Theed family*, tombs of at Mentmore, 606.
*Thomond*, Marquis of, his seat at Taplow, 470, 646.
*Thompson family*, monuments of at Husborn-Crawley, 101. At Bradfield, 246.
——— *Giles*, Bishop of Gloucester, his monument at Windsor, 426.
*Thornborough*, parish of, 647, 648.
*Thorncote*, in Northill, manor of, 119.
*Thorney*, a hamlet of Iver, 587.
*Thorn-fee*, in Little-Missenden, manor of, 608.
*Thornton*, parish of, 648, 649.
*Throckmorton* of Buckland, Baronet, 182, 183, 252. Tombs of at Weston-Underwood, 661.
——— *William*, his tomb at Shottesbroke, 364.
*Throckmortons*, in Roxton, manor of, 129.
*Thumley*, a hamlet of Wormenhall, 673.
*Thurleigh*, parish of, 140, 141.
*Tickford Abbey* and *Park*, 613.
*Tickford-end*, manor of, *ibid.*
*Tidcomb*, in Kentbury, manor of, 305.
*Tidmarsh*, parish of, 388, 389.
*Tilbrook*, parish of, 141.
*Tilsworth*, parish of, 141.
*Tingewick*, parish of, 649, 650.
*Tingrith*, parish of, 142, 142.
*Tinteyness* in Appleton, manor of, 254.
*Tipping family*, 181. Their tombs at Chaddleworth, 257.
*Toddington*, parish of, 142, 146. Market disused, 142. Manors, 142—144. Church, 144, 145. Hospital, 144, 146.
*Tofts*, in Sharnbrooke, manor of, 151.
*Tomb house* at Windsor, 428.
*Tombs*, ancient, in Bedfordshire, 22, 33. In Berkshire, 208—210. In Buckinghamshire, 490, 491.
*Topham family*, tombs of at Windsor, 435.
*Totternhoe*, parish of, 126.
——— *Castle*, 35.
*Tothall-end* in Hanslape, manor of, 572.
*Tottenhoe*, parish of, 650, 651.
*Tournament*, grand, held at Windsor, by King Edward I. 418.
*Toweridge*, in West-Wycombe, manor of, 678.
*Towers*, circular, of churches, 205.
*Towersey*, a hamlet of Thame, 651.
*Tirally family*, 11. Their castle at Yielden, 156.
*Travers, Samuel*, increases the number of poor knights at Windsor, 430, 431.
*Trevor family*, portraits of at Bruchham, 61. Their monuments, 62.
*Troughton family*, tombs of at Hanslape, 573.
*Trouts*, of a remarkable size, taken in the Kennet, 195.
*Trumbull*, Sir *William*, his seat at East Hampstead, 285. His monument, *ibid.*
*Trussel*, Sir *William*, his monument at Shottesbroke, 210, 363.
*Tubney*, parish of, 389.
*Tullesworth, Adam de*, his tomb at Tillsworth, 32, 141.
*Turner* of Battlesden, Baronet, 16, 43.
*Turnor*, Sir *Christopher*, his seat at Milton-Ernest, 118.
——— Sir *Edmund*, his benefactions to that parish, 119.
*Turvey*, parish of, 146, 147.
*Turvey-Abbey*, seat of J. Higgins esq. 146.
——— *Hall*, ancient seat of the Mordaunt family, *ibid.*
*Turweston*, parish of, 651, 652.
*Tutchen-end* in Bray, 248.
*Twiffe, William*, rector of Newbury, 325.
*Twyford*, parish of, 652.
——— a hamlet of Hurst, 302.
*Tylehurst*, parish of, 389, 390.
*Tyringham*, parish of, 653.
*Tyringham family*, 467, 653, 665.
*Tyrrell* of Thornton, Baronet, 467, 648.
——— Monuments of the family at Castlethorpe, 333. At Oakley, 615. At Stanton-Barry, 633.
*Tythorp*, a hamlet of Kingsey, 589.
——— seat of Mrs. Herbert, *ibid.*

U.

*Uffington*, parish of, 390, 391.
——— *Castle*, 213, 214.
*Ufton*, parish of, 391, 393.
——— *Greyshall*, manor of, *ibid.*
——— *Nervet*, manor of, 391.
*Underore* in Windsor, manor of, 433.
*Upton family*, their monuments at Faringdon, 279.
——— Sir *Henry*, ambassador for Queen Elizabeth to the Court of France, his spirited conduct, *ibid.*
*Uphoe*, a hamlet of Lavendon, 593.
*Upper-Ossory*, Earl of, his seat at Ampthill, 14. 37, 38, 39.
*Upton*, parish of, 653, 654.
——— a hamlet and manor in Blewbury, 244, 245.
——— in Dinton, manor of, 550.
——— *Court*, 653.
*Uptons* in Great-Kimble, manor of, 589.
*Urns*, *Roman*, found in Bedfordshire, 24. In Berkshire, 199.
*Urswick Chapel* in Windsor, 427.

V.

*Vache*, the, in Chalfont St. Giles, a manor and seat of the late Sir Hugh Palliser, 534.
*Vachell family*, 180, 330, 341.
*Vale* of Aylesbury, 475. Of Bedford, 18. Of White-horse, 188.
*Vanbatten family*, monuments of, at Dinton, 551.
*Vanlore*, Sir *Peter*, his monument at Tylehurst, 380.
*Vansittart family*, 186.
*Vaux*, in Stewkley, manor of, 623.
*Vavasor*, *Anne*, her monument at Quarendon, 62.
*Ventris*, Sir Charles, his escape from assassination, 63.
*Verney family*, 467. Their portrait at Middle-Claydon, 513. Monuments there, *ibid.*
*Vernon*, Sir *Edward*, his monument at Binfield, 241.
*Verulam*, Lady, widow of Lord Chancellor Bacon, her tomb at Eyworth, 83.
*Vicus*, remarkable in Bedfordshire, 18. In Berkshire, 191. In Buckinghamshire, 476, 477.
*Vigerous family*, tombs of, at Arlesey, 40.
*Vyse*, General, his seat at Stoke-Poges, 640.

W.

*Waddesdon*, parish of, 654—657.
*Wadley* in Faringdon, the seat of W. Y. Mills esq. 278.
*Wadloes* in Toddington, manor of, 144.
*Wadlowe*, formerly a hamlet of Toddington, now depopulated, 143.
*Walnes* in Eversholt, manor of, 82.
*Waldegrave*, Earl of, his monument at Eton, 559.
*Waldridge* in Dinton, manor of, 550.
*Waller family*, 468, 686. Tombs of, at Beaconsfield, 508.
——— *Edmund*, his seat at Hall-Barn, and monument at Beaconsfield, 507.
*Wallingford*, account of, 392, 403. Etymology, 392. History of the castle and honour, 393—398. The college, 398, 399. Benedictine convent, 399. Corporation, borough, market, &c. *ibid.* Population, 400, 401. Parish-churches, 401—403. Schools and alms-houses, 403.
*Wallingford Bridge*, 403.
——— *Castle*, 393—398. Besieged by King Stephen, 393. By Sir Roger Damory, 395. Given to Cardinal Wolsey, 396. Made a garrison for King Charles I., 397. Surrendered, *ibid.*
*Wallingtons* in Kentbury, manor of, 395.
*Walrond family*, tombs of, at Childrey, 260.
*Waltham-Place*, seat of George Grant esq. 406.
——— *Laurence*, parish of, 403—405.
——— *White*, parish of, 405—407.
——— *street*, 407.
*Walton*, parish of, 657.
*Wantage*, town and parish of, 407—410. Manors, 407, 408. Market, population, &c. 408. Parish-church, 408, 409. Charities, 409, 410.
*Ward family*, monuments of, at Hurst, 302.
*Warden*, parish of, 147, 148. The abbey, 148.
*Wardhurst*, a hamlet of Ivinghoe, 508.
*Warfield*, parish of, 410.
*Wargrave*, parish of, 410—412.
*Wargrave* in Waddesdon, manor of, 655.
*Warren family*, 468.
*Warrington*, a hamlet and manor in Olney, 610.
*Warwick*, Countess of, her almshouse at Cheneys, 565.
——— Sir *Philip*, his seat at Clapham, 69.
*Washingleys* in Cranfield, manor of, 72.
*Wasley*, parish of, 412. Seat of William Mount esq. *ibid.*
*Waste lands* in Berkshire, 190, 191. In Buckinghamshire, 475.
*Watchfield*, a hamlet and manor in Shrivenham, 269.
*Water-Eaton* in Bleckley, manor of, 511, 512.
*Water-Hall* in Bleckley, manor of, *ibid.*
*Waterland*, Dr. buried at Windsor, 426.
*Waterside*, a hamlet of Chesham, 538.
*Watling-street*, its course through Bedfordshire, 25, 36. Through Buckinghamshire, 484.

*Weningtons* in East Hagbourn, manor of, 284.
*Wenman, Edward*, his seat at Hardwick, 572.
*Wentworth*, parish of, 663, 665.
*Wey family*, their monuments at Denham, 549.
——— *Benjamin*, his seat at Denham-Place, 548, 549.
*Weyland-Smith*, an ancient sepulchral monument, 200.
*Webber, William*, his seat at Old Windsor, 413.
*Weedon* in Aylesbury, a hamlet and manor, 574.
——— *Beck* in Marsham, manor of, 407.
*Weightman*, tombs of, at Cookham, 507.
*Weipers*, parish of, 414, 415. The church, 425.
*Well*, holy, at Lamerton, 745.
*Wellesborne Hastings*, monument of, at Leighton Buzzard, 114.
*Wellesbourn*, town and parish of, 658.
*Wendover, Roger*, the historian, 669.
*Wenlock, John*, Lord, particulars relating to him, 107, 109—112. His chapel in Luton church, 108—113.
——— *William de*, his supposed tomb at Luton, 112, 113.
*Wenman family*, 568. Their monuments at Tyttenhanger, 568.
*Wentworth family*, their seat and settlements of, at Toddington, 144, 145. Lady, the Duke of Monmouth's mistress, 143, 144.
——— Lady *Maria*, her monument at, 145.
*West family*, monuments of, at Bradenham, 319. At Mapledurham, 603.
——— Hon. *Frederick*, his seat at Culham-Court, 415.
*West Ilsley* in Boxford, manor of, 245.
*Westbury*, parish of, 660.
——— in Shenley, Manor of, 629.
*Westcot*, a hamlet of Spatholt, 370.
———, a hamlet and manor in Waddesdon, 635, 636.
*Westcot* in Finchampstead, manor of, 181.
——— in Stadhampton, manor of, 354.
*Westcote-Place* in Stoke-Poges, seat of Dr. Brownrigg, 630.
*West-Hyde*, in Luton, manor of, 109.
*Westlington*, a hamlet of Dinton, 358.
*Westmill* in Shenvenham, manor of, 306.
*Weston* in Langley, 591.
*Weston*, a hamlet of Wilstead, 434.
*Weston Ing*, parish of, 624.
*Weston Turville*, parish of, 601.
*Weston Underwood*, parish of, 581.
*Westrecote* in Sutcliff (Berkshire), 335.
*Westridge-Bush* in Little Bintley, seat of T. Walker, esq. 622.
*Westson*, parish of, 662.
*Wetherden*, parish of, 662, 663.
——— *Castle*, 476.
——— *Hall*, [illegible] time [illegible] by [illegible]
*Wilks*, now of William [illegible] Wilks, esq. of [illegible] 663.
*Wharton family*, account of, 470. Their seat at Wooburn, 672. Their monuments, *ibid.*
*Wheatfield* in Great Chalfield, manor of, 339.
*Wheeler family*, monuments of, at Aylesbury, 618.
*Whelpdale*, parish of, 660.
*Whitby*, town of, 660.
*Whitchurch family*, [illegible] to Bedford, 435, 437. His monument at Cippenham, 503.
*Whitchurch*, parish of, 668.
*Whitmore family*, tombs of, at Chalfont St. Peter, 537.
*White family*, tombs of, at Eyford, 244.
——— Sir *Thomas*, native of Reading, 263.
*Whitelocke*, some time seat of the Earl of Macclesfield, now of the Marquis of Blandford, 182, 183.
——— *Bulstrode*, ancient figure in chalk, 220, 351. Custom of cleaning, *ibid.* Vale of, 338.
*White's Place*, the seat of G. H. Drummond, esq. 307.
*Whitehead, Paul*, his monument at West-Wycombe, 68.
*Whitley*, a tithing of Sumner, 270.
——— near Reading, manor and particulars, 340.
*Whitlock*, Sir *Bulstrode*, buried at Fawley, 561. Monument of Sir James, *ibid.*
*Whittington farm* in Medmenham, given to the University of Oxford, 605.
*Whittingdale family*, 467.
*Whyteparish* in Great Kimble, manor of, 588.
*Wick* or *Wyke river*, course of, 280.
*Wickham*, a hamlet of Welford, 413.
*Wickham, William of*, the architect of Windsor Castle, 418.
*Widmore* in Great Marlow, manor of, 590, 600.
*Wigg family*, tombs of, at Memmarc, 606.
*Wigges* in Cople, manor of, 71.
*Wightwick family*, tombs of, at Lauricee-Wellam, 450.
*Wilcox* Hamlet Norris, 287.
*Wildman*, Sir *John* and his son, anecdote of, 76. Their monument at Shurcliffe, *ibid.*
*Willesden*, parish of, 660.
*Willes, John*, Esq. at Aylesbury, and representative of the borough, 595.
*Willoughby, Thomas*, his seat at Little Marlow, 602.
*Wills family*, their monument at Leighton Buzzard, 103.
*Williams family*, 587.
*Willis*, Mrs. *Jane*, her monument at Burnham, 552.
*Wilson, the Comedian*, at Abingdon, 228. Receives the education of the English comedians at Wilmington, 503. Resides at Windsor, 416.
*William, Rufus*, [illegible] at Windsor, 416.

*William* III. King, refides at Windfor, 420. Vifits the Earl of Portland at Bulftrode, 634. Vifits Lord Wharton at Woburn, 670.
*Williams, Erasmus*, his monument at Tingewick, 649, 650.
——— Mrs. Her fingular good fortune in the lottery, 220.
*Willington*, parish of, 150, 151. The church, 30, 181.
*Willis Browne*, repreſents the borough of Buckingham, 525. His benefaction to the church of Bletchley, 512. Procures ſubſcriptions for rebuilding the chapel at Fenny-Stratford, 513. Interred there, his epitaph, 514. His collections towards a hiſtory of the County of Bucks, 494, 514, 515. His ſeat at Whaddon-Hall, 662.
——— *Thomas*, tomb of, at Hinkley, 293.
*Willoughby, Catherine*, Lady, her monument at Great Marlow, 606.
*Willows*, the, a villa of Mr. Townly Werd, 249.
*Willis, Thomas*, ſeventy years rector of Carlton and Chellington in Bedfordſhire, 66.
*Wilton Park*, the ſeat of James Dupre eſq. 508.
*Winchington*, parish of, 151, 152. The church, 27, 151, 152.
*Winchcombe*, of Inckleburv, Baronet, 274, 275.
——— The tomb, 274.
——— Lady *Frances*, her ſchool at Thatcham, 536.
——— *John*, commonly called Jack of Newbury, particulars relating to, 220. His tomb-place preſerved, *ibid.*
*Winchendon, Upper*, parish of, 662. Seat of the Wharton family, and its fine gardens, *ibid.*
——— *Lower*, parish of, 665.
*Winchelſea, Thomas* ——, Earl of, his ſeat at Ingleſcombe, 255. His monument, 255, 256.
*Windmills*, how erected, 201 at Haines Hill, 301.
*Windſor-Forest*, account of, 415—440. Hiſtory of the caſtle, 416—420. Deſcription of the caſtle, 420, 421, 423—431. Knights of the Order of the Garter, 421—423. Deſcription of St. George's chapel, 423—428. Poor Knights, 429—431. Governors of Windſor Caſtle, 431, 432. The foreſt and park, 432, 433. The queen's lodge, 433. Corporation and Borough, 433, 434. County gaol, 434. Population, 435. Parish church, ſchools, almſhouſes, &c. 435, 436.
*Windſor Great Park*, 432, 433. Agricultural improvements carried on there by his preſent Majeſty, 433.
——— *Little Park*, *ibid.*
*Winkfield*, parish of, 413—415. Ancient records there, 413, 414.
*Windſor Forelt*, 432.
*Wing*, parish of, 663—667. Priory, 663. Park and church, 666.
*Wingate family*, 12. Tombs of at Leighton-Buſard, 104.
——— *Edmund*, the arithmetician, his ſeat at Harlington, 90.
*Wingfield* in Chalgrave, manor of, 67.
*Wingrave*, parish of, 667.
*Winkfield*, parish of, 430—438.
——— *Park*, ſeat of Thomas Bingley eſq. 437.
——— *Place*, ſeat of Standlake Barton, *ibid.*
*Winnerſh Liberty* in Hurſt, 101.
*Wiſley*, town and parish of, 667, 668.
*Wiſtenham*, a hamlet of Cheveley, 268.
*Wiſtle, Thomas*, rector of Brightwell, 251.
*Withington, Humphrey*, his ſeat at Ditton, 239.
——— *Richard*, his monument at Quainton, 636.
*Withiel*, parish of, 438, 439.
——— *Hall*, formerly a ſeat of the Harcourt family, now of the Earl of Abingdon, 212, 213, 438, 439.
*Wittenham, Little*, parish of, 430, 440.
——— *Long*, parish of, 440—441.
*Wittesorange*, of Stanton-Barry, Baronet, 634. Monuments of the family, 638. Sir John outlawed for murder, 638. Sir William, the late Baronet, governor of the poor Knights of Windſor, *ibid.*
*Wood* cultivated in Buckinghamſhire, 18.
*Woburn*, town and parish of, 151—164.
——— *Abbey*, account of, 152. Seat of the Duke of Bedford, 14, 152, 153. Park and farm-yard, 153.
*Wode, Margaret*, her tomb, 360.
*Wokefield* in Stratfield-Mortimer, manor of, 375, 376.
*Wokingham*, town and parish of, 441—443. Market, fairs &c. 441. Manors, church, &c. 442. Benefactions, 442, 443.
*Wolverton*, parish of, 443.
*Wolfcot family*, 180. Tombs of at Bulmpton, 257.
*Wolſey, Cardinal*, builds a coſtly monument for himſelf at Windſor, 428.
*Wolvely, or Wolfy Place*, in White-Waltham, manor of, 406.
*Wolverton*, parish of, 668, 669.
*Woolhurſt*, parish of, 670—671. Biſhop of Lincoln's palace, 670.
——— *Seymours*, manor of, 671.
*Woodcote* in Caſtle, lands of the Lukes, 71.
——— in Harlington, ſeat of the Alleys, 90.
*Woodham*, a hamlet of Waldeſton, 150.
*Woodley*, parish of, 443.
*Woodhill-Grange*, in Stewkley, manor of, 117.
*Wood-land* in Bedfordſhire, 17. In Buckinghamſhire, 19.
*Woodleys Lodge* in Sonning, late the ſeat of Lord Sidmouth, now of Mr. Wheeble, 381.

*Woodnoth family*, tombs of, at Thornborough, 448.
*Woodside-house*, seat of Dr. Ogilvie, 415.
*Woodward, George*, his monument at Hillesdon, 579.
*Woolley-Park*, the seat of the Rev. Philip Wroughton, 257, 258.
*Woolston*, a hamlet of Uffington, 391.
*Woolston-Magna*, parish of, 672.
——— *Parva*, parish of, *ibid.*
*Wootton*, parish of, 154, 155.
*Worcester, Charles*, Earl of, his monument at Windsor, 426.
*Word* in Faringdon, manor of, 278.
*Wormenhall*, parish of, 672, 673.
*Wormstall* in Kentbury, 306.
*Wortley*, Sir *Richard*, his monument at Windsor, 426.
*Wotton* in Berkshire, parish of, 444.
——— *Underwood*, parish of, 673, 674.
——— *House*, seat of the Grenvilles, 673.
*Wotton*, Dr. rector of Milton-Keynes, 606.
——— Sir *Henry*, his tomb at Eton, 559.
*Woughton*, parish of, 674.
*Wreck-hall* in Hitchenden, 580.
*Wrest Park*, seat of Lady Lucas, 85, 86.
*Wrestlingworth*, parish of, 155, 156.
*Wright*, Alderman, his monument at Staines, 682.
*Wrighte*, Lord Keeper, his monument at Gayhurst, 565.
*Wroxill*, a hamlet of Marston-Morteyno, 114, 115. Chapel, 114. Manor, 115.
*Wyboston* in Eaton Socon, manor of, 80.
*Wycombe, High*, or *Chipping*, town and parish of, 674—678. Market and borough, 674. Population, manors, &c. 675, 676. Parish church, 676, 677. Charities, &c. 677. Military College, 677, 678.
——— *Abbey*, seat of Lord Carrington, 676.
*Wycombe, West*, parish of, 678—680.
*Wycombe-House*, seat of Sir John Dashwood King, 679.
*Wyfield*, or *Wifehold*, in Boxford, manor of, 245.
*Wyghtam family*, tombs of at Witham, 439.
*Wyke* in Faringdon, manor of, 277.
*Wykingesham* in Faringdon, manor of, 278.
*Wyllien*, parish of, 680, 681.
*Wymondesold*, tombs of at Lockinge, 513.
*Wyrardisbury*, parish of, 681, 682.
*Wyvelsgate* in Wendover, manor of, 659.

X.

*Ximenes, Monic*, his seat at Bear-Place, 411.

Y.

*Yate*, of Buckland, Baronet, 182, 252. Tombs of the family at Buckland, 253. At Hanney, 289.
*Yattendon*, parish of, 445, 446. Ancient seat of the Norris family, 445.
*Yew-tree, large*, at Bucklebury, 254. At Hedsor, 578. At Stowe, 643. At Ankerwyke, 681.
*Yielden*, parish of, 156. Castle of the Barony of Trally, *ibid.*
*Yonge, Roger*, his tomb at Basilden, 239.
*Yorke, John*, his tomb at Hagbourn, 284.

Z.

*Zouche family*, 11. Tombs of at Clifton-Reynes, 545.
*Zouches* in Caddington, manor of, 62.
——— at Eliesborough, manor of, 555.

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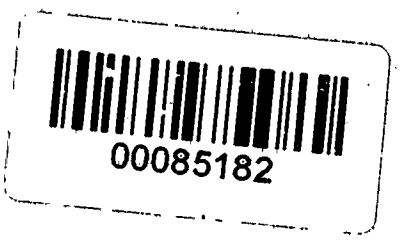
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